



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth 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: You Have Called Us BB 648

Mass Parts: Mass For Christ The Savior

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen BB 475

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 10, 2024

Offertory \$6,621.63
Catholic Relief Services \$1,272.00



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

March 17 Fuel
March 24 Easter Flowers



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

HOLY THURSDAY 2024

You are invited to be a part of the Holy Thursday Liturgy, which begins the sacred Triduum, the three holiest days of the Church's year. Be a part of the **Mandatum** – the Washing of the Feet, on **Holy Thursday, MARCH 28 at 6:30 PM** in Newton. Your presence and participation will add greatly to the reality of the Parish community gathering around the Lord's Table as we enter into the sacred Triduum. Participation is easy, all you have to do is come forward, take off your shoes, and Father Albert does the rest! OR... be a **presenter of Holy Oils**. The new Holy Oils are blessed and consecrated by the Bishop on Holy Tuesday and presented to our Parish at the beginning of Liturgy on Holy Thursday. At the beginning of Liturgy, we will get you in position to process up the main aisle holding either a lit candle or a bottle of one of the Oils, and you present the Oils to the Pastor, who then presents them to the Parish.

Contact Father Albert in the Office for more information, or email at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

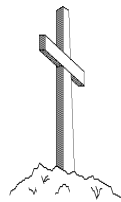
If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2023, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

2023 NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL PLEDGE REMINDER

Thanks to over 10,000 donors, the 2023 New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) received over \$3.7 million to support Community Services program ministries throughout the Diocese. If you have made a pledge to the NHCA, we encourage, if possible, that all pledges be fulfilled by March 31, 2024. If you have a question about the status of your pledge, please reach out to Anne Marie Ashford in the Development office at 603-663-0152 or aashford@rcbm.org. We thank you again for your support of the appeal.

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.



ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY

On behalf of the local families that the St Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry serves, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Items we are most in need of include pasta and sauce, ramen noodles, peanut butter and jelly, soups, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, crackers, snack items, cookies and treats for kids, pancake mix and syrup, canned meats, tuna and canned fish. These are staple food items which we use all the time and never have enough of. Other items we have requested include toiletries, toilet paper, paper towels, pet food, laundry soap, dish soap and cleaners.

With Easter fast approaching, please consider including things we can include in our special distribution of Easter dinner boxes. Any seasonal treat, candy, cookies, or any items we can use for Easter baskets for kids would be most appreciated. Gifts cards or checks made out to St Luke Food Pantry are always useful and welcomed.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Joe and Marie Farren

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 17

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

Tuesday, March 19

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, March 20
Holy Angels Church Open
All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM Disciples On The Journey *Plaistow*
 7:00 PM St. Luke Outreach Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper *Newton*

Saturday, March 23

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, March 24

6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In addition to Saturdays at 3:00 PM in Plaistow and 6:30 PM in Newton on the Sundays of Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be celebrated on **Monday of Holy Week, March 25:**

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Plaistow
 5:00 to 7:00 PM in 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

Barbara Metcalf

by St. Luke's Outreach Ministry



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

Jim Glendye

by the Knights of Columbus



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 16 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, March 17 ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

8:00 AM Barbara Metcalf
 by the St. Luke Outreach Ministry
Newton

10:00 AM Deceased Members of the family of
 Carole Lueders by Susan Ronan
Plaistow

Monday, March 18 ~ Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11

8:00 AM Susan Ricciardi by the Stanley family
Newton

Tuesday, March 19 ~ Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

*2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;
 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a*

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 20 ~ Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:14-20, 91/92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

6:30 PM Jean Hardy by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, March 21 ~ Lenten Weekday

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Newton

Friday, March 22 ~ Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

No Mass

Saturday, March 23 ~ Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56 (Day)

Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Richard J. Sullivan (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Jeanne Sullivan
Plaistow

Sunday, March 24 ~ Palm Sunday of the Passion of

The Lord

Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47

8:00 AM Jesselyn and Donald Driscoll
 by the McKinney family
Newton

10:00 AM Paul G. Antkowiak (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his family
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. 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**

The Knights invite you to a weekly Rosary on Thursdays at 7:00 PM in Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. Prayers are offered for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine, along with Respect for Life and other intentions that are offered by those in attendance. We are currently planning our 2024 St. Jude Golf Open which will be held in early June. This year's Open will assist a single mother who suffered a severe stroke and another single mother who is raising two daughters with severe medical issues. If you would like more information about the Open, please visit our website at 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.

**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.

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.**



Saint Luke the Evangelist
OUTREACH MINISTRY

Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of St. Luke's Outreach Ministry! 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. Luke's Outreach Ministry 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, March 20 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 St. Luke's Outreach Ministry, call 603-382-8324 x315.

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

The Paschal Triduum

The Church's holiest days begin with the **Liturgy of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 PM in Newton.** At Mass that evening, the holy oils blessed earlier that week by the Bishop will be presented to the Parish, Jesus' call to service and humility is remembered through washing of feet, and the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus at the Last supper is celebrated. Adoration and prayer with the Eucharist will go on that night in church until Night Prayer at 9:00 PM.

Throughout the Triduum, the Church is in almost constant prayer. The **Liturgy of the Hours** will be celebrated beginning on Holy Thursday at 8 am and Noon at Newton. Night prayer will be at 9 PM. The same schedule for Morning and Mid-Day prayer will be kept on Good Friday and Holy Saturday at Plaistow.



The Passion and death of Jesus on the cross is celebrated on **Good Friday, March 29.** On this day, everything is different. No Masses are allowed. Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 3:00 PM in Newton, and **the principal celebration of the day, the Reading of John's Passion, the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion will be celebrated at 6:30 PM at Plaistow.**

On Holy Saturday, the Church waits in prayer at the Lord's tomb. No Sacraments other than communion for the dying are celebrated. We wait for the announcement of Easter victory. Morning prayer will be celebrated at Plaistow at 8 am, and Mid-Day prayer at Noon.



The ***Great Vigil of Easter*** will begin at **8 PM on Saturday, March 30** with the blessing of new fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle, the principle symbol of the Easter Season. We will then listen to our story of salvation, proclaimed through readings and song. We will proclaim the Easter Gospel and renew our Baptismal Promises. We will then celebrate the solemn Eucharist of Easter.

The ***Great Vigil of Easter*** begins in front of the Church, where we will bless the Easter fire, burning just outside the doors of the Church. *If you plan on attending the Great Vigil on March 30, plan on gathering in the Church for 7:50 PM on Holy Saturday evening.*

Easter Sunday

Easter Liturgies will be celebrated at 8:00 am in Newton and at 10:00 am in Plaistow on March 31, with renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Easter Water.

Easter Evening Prayer with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude our Easter Sunday at 6:00 PM at Newton.



Saint Luke the Evangelist

OUTREACH MINISTRY


Saint Vincent de Paul Society is now **SAINT LUKE OUTREACH MINISTRY**

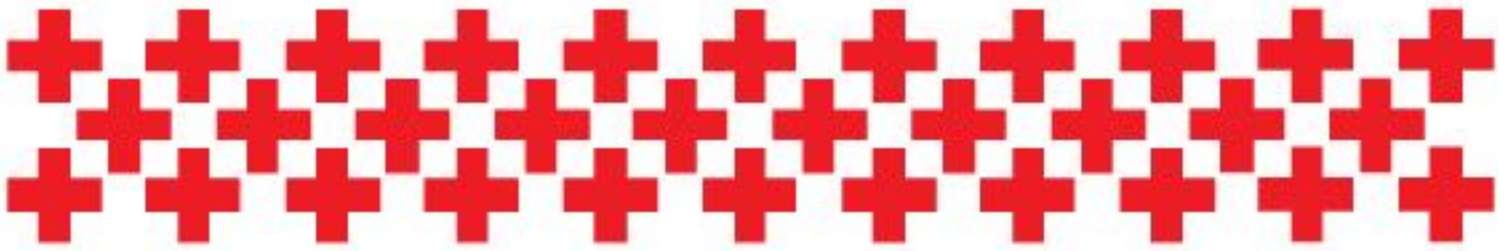
Our ministry to families and individuals continues as a Parish based ministry. We are committed more than ever to assisting families and individuals. Call us at the Parish Office at 603 382 8325 ext. 315.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Basically, not much. Our mission to assist needy people in our area goes on, our commitment to Christ-centered compassion is still the same.

What has changed is that we are now a Ministry of Saint Luke the Evangelist in name and no longer affiliated with a Saint Vincent de Paul regional or national group.

 Any contribution to the Saint Luke Outreach Ministry stays in our local community for people who need us! You can help by dropping a dollar in our Outreach Ministry box at the church entrance, or by making out your check to **Saint Luke Outreach Ministry**. Thank you for helping us help others.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Give Blood, Save a Life

BLOOD DRIVE

Atkinson Community Center

4 Main Street
Atkinson, NH 03811

Friday, March 22, 2024
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
COUNCIL 6617**

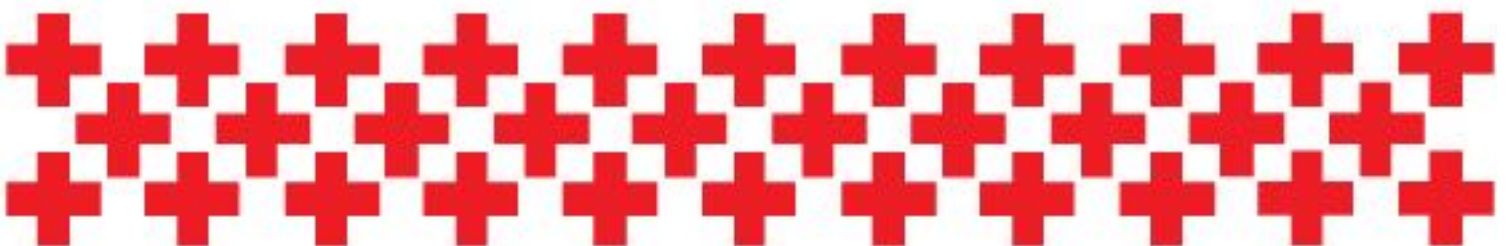


To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O,B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS YOU - YES YOU! CHECK THIS OUT.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE KNIGHTS ARE A GROUP OF EVERYDAY GUYS FROM YOUR PARISH, THAT HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE PARISH AND SURROUNDING AREAS BY DOING SIMPLY THINGS TO HELP OUT.

WE MEET THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, IN THE PARISH HALL ON THE PLAISTOW CAMPUS, STARTING AT 7:00 PM.

HEAR WHAT WE HAVE GOING ON, MEET SOME OF THE MEMBERS, MAYBE THERE IS AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE WITH, HELP PLAN, HAVE AN IDEA.

**WE COULD USE THE HELP. ALL ARE WELCOME.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING ON
APRIL 1ST.**



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.

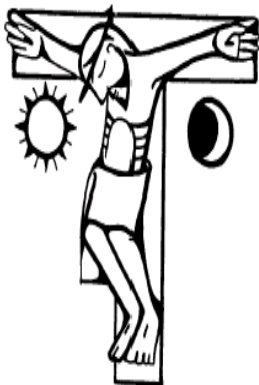


Praying the Stations of the cross

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.



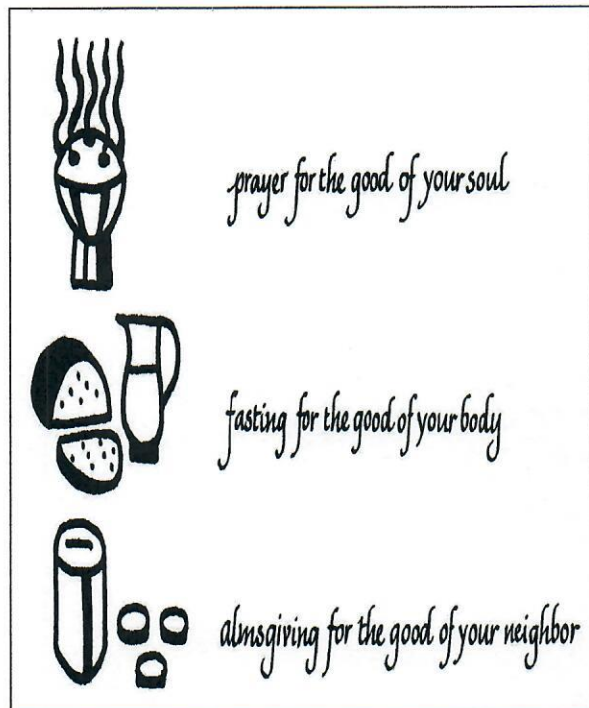
Lenten Space, Silence, & Music

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.

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 at St. Michael, Exeter on Sunday, March 17 at 3 PM and at Mary, Queen of Peace, Salem on Sunday, March 17 at 2 PM.



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

March 17, 2024

Do I Have to Die?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Who has not asked this question, at least to oneself? It's a valid question, because at the core of every living person is the desire to live. Jesus also must have asked this question. Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27, "I am troubled now." Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later.

The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared

with the possible harvest, so—our faith assures us— there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendid future, we will have to die, just like the grain.

Our Lenten meditations will focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimize Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life, but the gateway to new life. So as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus, we must die in order to enter new life. †



Our faith assures us that there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us.

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 31:31–34

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 5:7–9

[Christ Jesus] offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears.

John 12:20–33

[Jesus said,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

A Word from Pope Francis

Many people...would like to "see Jesus," to meet him, to know him.... We too must respond with the witness of a life that is given in service, a life that takes upon itself the style of God—closeness, compassion and tenderness.... It means sowing seeds of love, not with fleeting words but through concrete, simple and courageous examples....

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 21, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Can you give God your little problems to prepare to do likewise with bigger matters?
- What can you do to avoid regret when this life ends?

The Importance of Being “Nobody”

Nathan D. Mitchel

Emily Dickinson begins one of her poems by declaring, “I’m nobody!” She then asks her readers, “Are you nobody too?” Dickinson’s words are not simply a manifesto against self-importance. She considers being “nobody” as a blessing, not a diminishment.

As many modern Scripture scholars point out, Jesus also was a “nobody from nowhere,” a marginal Jewish layperson from Galilee, an unimportant—even suspect—region. One reason, perhaps, why we know so little about what Jesus said and did from the time he was twelve until he was a mature adult is simply that his contemporaries didn’t see anything special or extraordinary about him. Saint Paul also was a “nobody” who argued vigorously against fat-cat “super apostles” who were more eloquent, more



impressive, and better looking than he was (see 2 Corinthians 11). Weakness, Paul claimed, was the surest sign God had chosen him for ministry among those other “have-nots,” the Gentiles.

In a culture that overvalues celebrities, salutes success, and often demonizes the poor and the weak, we Christians are called to witness to the importance of being nobody. Looking at our lives today, we might ask: How—here, now, in my community—am I being invited to become a voice for the voiceless, an advocate for the abandoned, a companion for the ill and elderly, a source of hope for the hopeless? At the table with his friends the night before he died, Jesus, that “nobody from nowhere,” declared that bread broken and shared had become his body. He revealed to us the “eucharistic law” that prevails throughout the universe: each of us is meant to become food for the hungry, bread for the life of the world. †

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

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “The Wisdom of Sister Thea Bowman”

Life for a while and then death. It’s as simple as that. When I first found out I had cancer, I didn’t know what to pray for. I didn’t know if I should pray for healing or life or death. Then, I found peace in praying for what my folks call “God’s perfect will.” As it evolved, my prayer has become, “Lord, let me live until I die.” By that I mean I want to live, love, and serve fully until death comes. If that prayer is answered, if I am able to live until I die, how long really doesn’t matter. †

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

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PRAYER

So that we may live fully and become the person God created us to be, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 18–23

Monday, Lenten Weekday: Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62 / Jn 8:1–11

Tuesday, St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Lk 2:41–51a

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday: Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95 / Jn 8:31–42

Thursday, Lenten Weekday: Gn 17:3–9 / Jn 8:51–59

Friday, Lenten Weekday: Jer 20:10–13 / Jn 10:31–42

Saturday, Lenten Weekday: Ez 37:21–28 / Jn 11:45–56

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 17, 2024

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