



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The Lord

Gathering: Hosanna To The Son Of David BB 142
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 22)

My God, my God, O why have you abandoned me?

Preparation: What Wondrous Love Is This BB 485
 Mass Parts: Mass For Christ The Savior
 Communion: Ubi Caritas BB 356
 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 17, 2024

Offertory \$6,219.64
Fuel \$1,562.14

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 24 Easter Flowers
 March 31 Needs of the Parish



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.



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

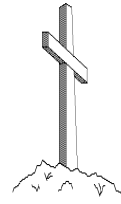
Did you know? If you are 72 or older and need to take a "required minimum distribution (RMD)" from an IRA retirement account, a direct distribution to a qualified charitable organization, such as Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, can save you money on your taxes. Such a donation will count toward your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



GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross will take place this Friday afternoon at 3:00 PM in Newton.

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer is sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on all Sundays of Lent. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available immediately after Evening Prayer each Sunday of the Lenten Season.



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 24

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

Monday, March 25

11:00 AM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*
5:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Wednesday, March 27
Holy Angels Church Open
All Day For Prayer

Please
See
Paschal
Triduum
Schedule

Thursday, March 28
NO ADORATION

Friday, March 29

3:00 PM Stations of the Cross *Newton*

Saturday, March 30
NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday, March 31

6:00 PM Easter Evening Prayer *Newton*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will 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

NO RECONCILIATION ON HOLY SATURDAY

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

John Marciano
(Birthday Remembrance)
by his family



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

Paul G. Antkwiak
(Birthday Remembrance)
by his family



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 23 ~ 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 (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

Monday, March 25 ~ Monday of Holy Week

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Newton

Tuesday, March 26 ~ Tuesday of Holy Week

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
8:00 AM Cecelia Blanch (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, March 27 ~ Wednesday of Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
6:30 PM Cecelia Blanch by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow
7:30 PM Tenebrae
Plaistow

Thursday, March 28 ~ Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
6:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
Newton

Friday, March 29 ~ Good Friday

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
6:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Plaistow

Saturday, 30 ~ Holy Saturday

Gn 1:1—2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7 (Vigil)
8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Plaistow

Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9
8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton
10:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow
6:00 PM Easter Evening Prayer
Newton



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.

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few good people to help us with one of our "hidden ministries," the counting of our Parish collections. Volunteers are needed to help count and document collections each week. The counts are usually done on Monday mornings from 9:00 – 10:30 and occasionally on a Tuesday morning when holidays occur. If you think that you might enjoy the company of this dedicated group while sharing in this important ministry, please speak to Fr. Albert for more information.

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.



**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, April 17 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.**

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
HOLY WEEK
Liturgical Schedule 2024**

Monday of Holy Week – Liturgy at 8 am - Newton

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Plaistow 11:00am – 1:00 PM
Newton 5:00-7:00 PM**

Tuesday of Holy Week – Liturgy at 8 am - Plaistow

**Wednesday of Holy Week –
Liturgy at 6:30 PM – Plaistow
Tenebrae at 7:30 PM**

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY 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
Night Prayer 9:00 pm - Newton

GOOD & HOLY FRIDAY MARCH 29

**Morning prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day prayer 12 noon - Plaistow
Stations of the Cross 3 pm - Newton**

GREAT SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION 6:30 PM - Plaistow

HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 30

**Morning Prayer 8 am - Plaistow
Mid-day Prayer 12 noon - Plaistow**

EASTER GREAT VIGIL AT 8 PM - Plaistow

EASTER SUNDAY LITURGIES MARCH 31

8 AM – Newton

10 AM – Plaistow

Easter Solemn Vespers with Benediction at 6 pm – Newton



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

**Newton: 12 Amesbury Road, Newton, NH
03858**

**Plaistow: 8 Atkinson Depot Road, Plaistow,
NH 03865**

**www. <http://stlukenh.org>
(603) 382-8324**

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Easter Fast, Easter Feast

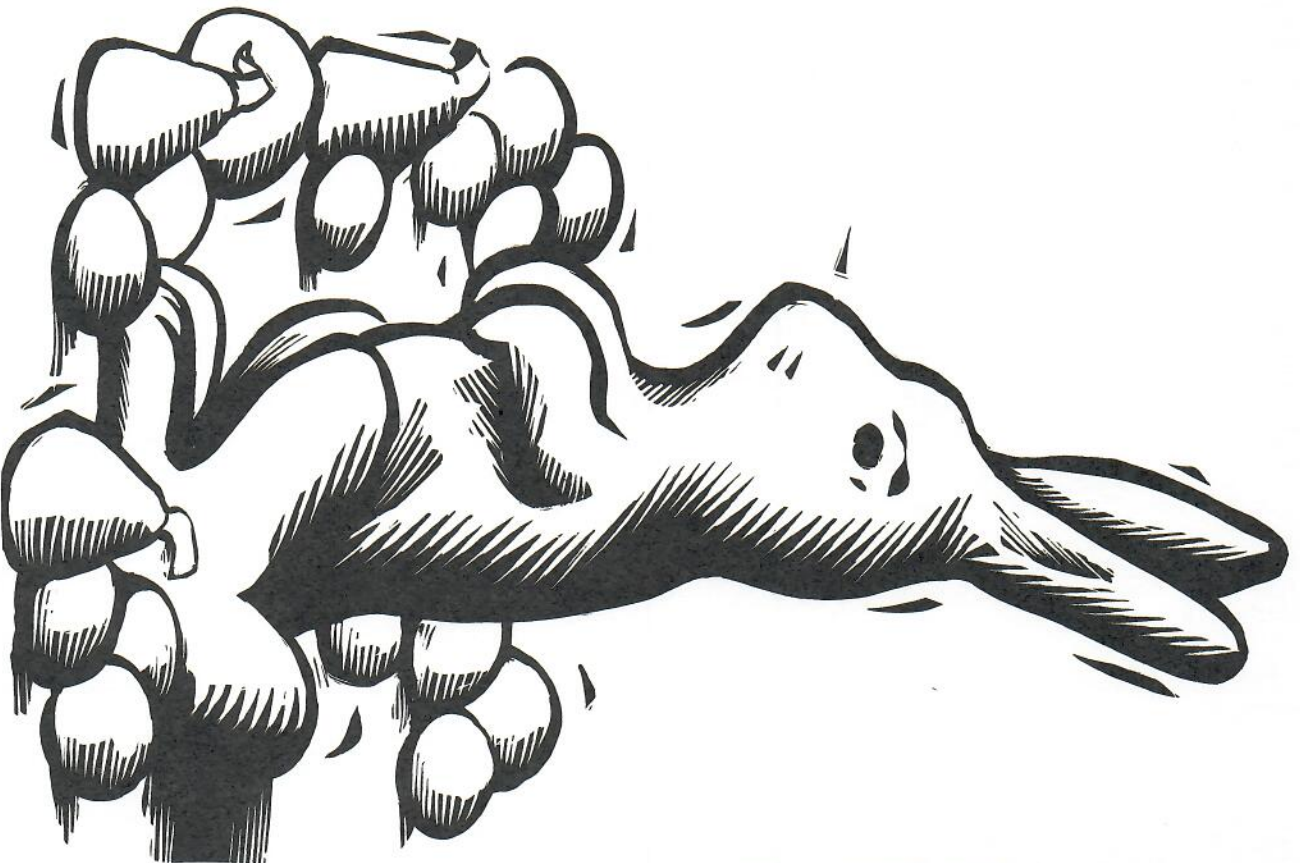
Have you ever been so emotional that you lost your appetite? Some brides and grooms get butterflies in their stomachs and have trouble eating the food at their own receptions. Because many mourners don't feel like eating, it's an old custom to tempt them to eat by bringing them a hearty meal.

On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the Christian people lose their appetites. These are the days of the Easter fast. We keep any meals as sparse and simple as possible. We don't eat meat or other festive foods. We don't eat out, because we don't want to make anyone work on our holiest days.

In the presence of the cross of Christ—our tree of life—we pretend that we're in paradise. Only this time, we refuse to eat. We show God that we won't make the same mistake twice!

On Easter Eve, after the Vigil, the fast is over and the Easter feast can begin. Rainbow-colored eggs remind us of God's life-giving promise to Noah. Meats and sausages remind us of the paschal lamb that saved the people from slavery, of the fatted calf that Sarah and Abraham served to their guests, or of the calf served by the happy father when his prodigal son finally came home.

Sweet dairy dishes—cheesecake, eggnog and even chocolate bunnies—remind us that God has brought us home to a place the book of Exodus calls “a land flowing with milk and honey.” In the words of Psalm 34, just taste and see how good the Lord is!



Keeping the Holiest Days of the Year

Today is the sixth and the last of the Sundays of Lent. We know it also by other names. It is called **Palm Sunday** because the first thing that we do when we gather this day is to take up palms and tell the story of how Jesus once came into the holy city, Jerusalem, riding over a carpet of branches, cheered by people waving branches. Today also is known as **Passion Sunday** because the Gospel story read (today) is the account of Jesus' passion as told by Matthew.



Today knows other events. This is the last Sunday when the Church calls forth and dismisses those Elect, who, at the start of Lent, were chosen or “Elected” for the Easter Sacraments. Beginning with Easter Sunday, they will not be dismissed after the homily, but will stay with the Church and do all that Baptized people do. They will begin to keep each Sunday by joining the church to give God thanks and praise at this table, over bread and wine, which we eat and drink and so become, little by little, the living body of Christ.

Today marks the beginning of the days we call **Holy Week**. That name, Holy Week, can be misleading - or it can be a rich insight into these days. It can mislead if we think of the time from today until next Sunday, Easter Sunday, as one segment of time that day by day tries to tell the story of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. That's not really what happens here. Rather, we have a week that splits in two on Thursday night - and each one of us ought to know how and why. That will tell us what puts the “holy” in Holy Week. **Until Thursday night it is Lent.** The Forty Days right now are down to their last five days. Thursday evening Lent ends. If we have kept these days so far with various kinds of fasting, various forms of almsgiving, and times of prayer each day, then we are near the end and can perhaps put on an extra burst of energy and so finish this great Lenten contest smiling and exuberant to have done penance and turned the world a bit upside-down.

**Passion Sunday
Evening Prayer
At Newton 6:00 PM
Sacrament of Reconciliation
follows Evening Prayer.**

**Reconciliation available at
Plaistow on Holy Monday 11 am-1
PM, and at Newton 5-7 PM**

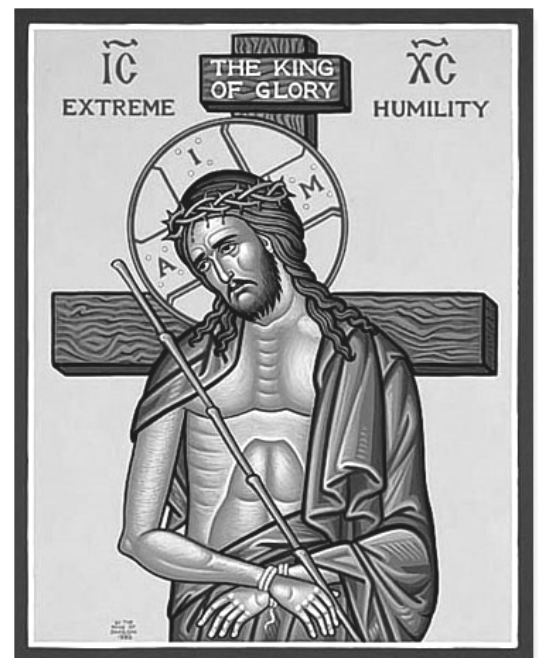
And if we have not kept these days so well, or perhaps not at all, if we have forgotten to pray, neglected to fast, not gotten around to all the ways alms can be given, then the news is good: Five days, counting today, to go! It isn't too late at all. Time enough remains to discover what hunger feels like-bodily hunger and other hungers too. Time remains for that spring-cleaning of house and wallet and life that Lent makes almost appealing to us who are too heavily laden

with possessions and near-addictions. Time remains also for quiet, for taking out the Bible and reading the Passion stories, reading here and there in Paul, reading psalms and prophets, and quietly reflecting on these words and stories and letting them help us to pray. Time remains. Five days of Lent to conclude your Forty Days, or Five Days to be your Forty Days.

The Paschal Triduum

But that brings us only to Thursday evening. That is the reason we say that this so-called Holy Week is really two very different pieces of time. For when Lent ends, we move without stopping for breath into the three days that are for us the heart and soul of the entire year. The church calls them a "*Triduum*," just the Latin for "three days." But we call them the "Easter Triduum" or the "Paschal Triduum." What that means is that

they are about the Paschal mystery, the Passover mystery, the way life and death and resurrection, our own, our church's, our human race's, get all tangled up in the life and death and resurrection of the one who is truly God and truly human, Jesus.



On Thursday night we walk out of Lent into these three holiest days, and we walk into them singing: “We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And there it is, in one part of one sentence from Paul: Our glory is in the cross. The cross is our only and ultimate glory. Somehow that is what it comes to for us, the transforming cross that never ceases to be the cross, the death that is death itself, all the ways death reigns in this poor world, but we look at it and we say, “Glory”. **From Thursday night until Sunday afternoon, it is Triduum.** We will gather in God’s house Thursday day and Thursday night and Friday morning and afternoon and evening, and Saturday in the morning and then in the darkness of Saturday night. These are liturgies we do not celebrate three or four times each day so that it is convenient for us to come. We do it once and we hope that all of us can be together, most especially at the **Great Easter Vigil**. That gathering of



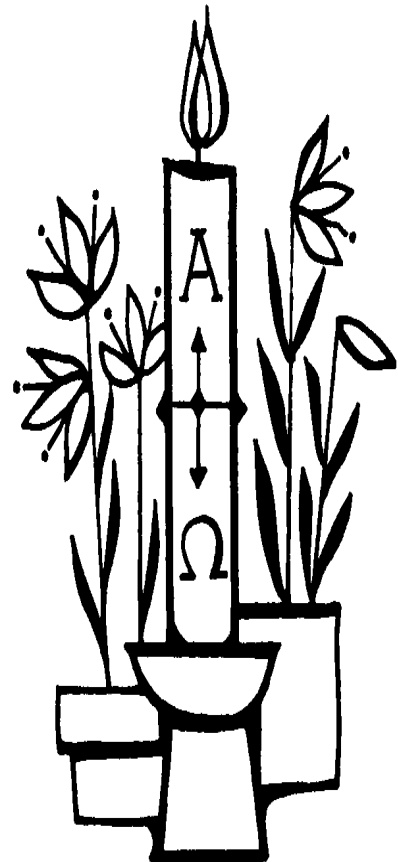
the church between Saturday evening and Sunday morning is the life that nourishes our whole year, all our days. It is when we come to spend some good time in the reading of scripture, and then go finally to the Baptismal font where our catechumens are challenged to renounce evil, to believe in Father and Son and Spirit, and so to die in the waters and live forever in Christ. We do the liturgies of these days only once because who would have the energy to do them again? We do them once because we wish that this whole Parish be, this once in the year, all together here to do scripture and Baptism and Eucharist.

And we dare to do these liturgies just once and to say that we should all be here because of something that we so easily overlook. It is: What else could we possibly find to do? That is the key to getting from the end of Lent back into life in this world. *We have to know that life-as-usual stops from Thursday evening to Easter Sunday.* Or perhaps it doesn’t stop, but we do. We drop out. We do not do on this Good Friday and this Holy Saturday what we do on any other Friday and Saturday of the year. So we are not ever trying to work in “going to church” among a hundred other things. No. The decks are clear. Lots of things in our lives have been closed down. We are free.

We have to know this: The way these three days are kept is not only with the liturgies here in this assembly. For these to have any sense at all to them, the three days must be kept in our lives. A generation ago, at the second Vatican Council, the world's bishops had a great and ancient insight into this. They said these strange words: *“Let the Paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday.”* They spoke not of a Lenten fast but of a Paschal fast, an Easter fast. What's that? And they spoke not just of fasting, but of “celebrating” this particular fast. What sort of fasting is celebrated? It is the fasting of excitement and expectation, of butterflies in the stomach because of what is about to happen. It is fasting from food, yes, but fasting also from work, and from entertainment and distraction. It is getting real hungry. It is clearing the mind and the heart. It is being famished for the word of God.

So the invitation to us Christians is to leave all we can of the normal on Thursday night. Off and on through those next three days, we'll meet here. You have your schedules of liturgies and other times of prayer. But it is the times between the liturgies that make the liturgies possible. Let all of us together find again and anew what is this glory that is ours in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Text by Gabe Huck. *This text is reproduced with permission from The Liturgical Conference, 8750 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910- 3621. All rights reserved. ©1991.*



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.

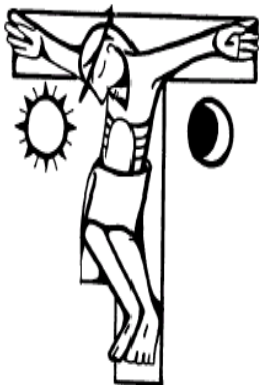


Praying the Stations of the cross

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.



Saint Luke the Evangelist
OUTREACH MINISTRY

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST,

OUTREACH MINISTRY

(formerly St. Vincent dePaul)

EASTER LILY FUND RAISER

\$15. PER PLANT

(PROVIDED BY NEWTON GREENHOUSE)

EASTER SUNDAY

After the 8:00 A.M. mass in Newton

and after the 10:00 A.M. mass in Plaistow

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THOSE IN NEED.

***THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!***

(ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL SUSAN MOKRAY AT (603- 315-4920)





Bringing Home the Word

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)

March 24, 2024

Empty Praise? No!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

How could anyone think that the joyous cry “Hosanna!” would be viewed as empty praise? Though the word has come down to us from the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb “to save” (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise? The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often, we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but all of humanity—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn

our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today’s readings describe. The Gospel reading for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out, “Hosanna!” Later we hear, “Crucify him!” Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us, often afraid to take an unpopular stand, lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier “Hosanna” empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us. †

Sunday Readings

Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Isaiah 50:4–7; Philippians 2:6–11

Rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient to...death, even death on a cross.

Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39

[Jesus prayed,] “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.”

Hosanna is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation.



A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus, in his abandonment, asks us to open our eyes and hearts to all who find themselves abandoned.... Let us ask for the grace to see and acknowledge the Lord who continues to cry out in them. May we not allow his voice to go unheard amid the deafening silence of indifference.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 2, 2023



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- If you have failed to support someone, can you ask them to forgive you?
- Can you forgive someone who has betrayed you?

Hosanna!

Rev. Paul Turner

Our parish maintenance man can fix anything. He analyzes problems and finds creative, inexpensive solutions. The church building is more than ninety years old, so a lot of things need repair. Over the decades, in a parish that has always struggled to pay its bills, our guy has plenty to do. From time to time, I remember to tell him that he does good work. I hope it's helpful feedback, but it's also a cry for help.

The word *Hosanna* works just that way. It's a word we sing at every Mass during the Sanctus. The words "in the highest" come right after it. Many think that "Hosanna" is another way of saying "Praise God," as in "Praise God in the highest." But "Hosanna" doesn't mean that. Alleluia means "Praise God." Hosanna means something like "save us."



It comes from the same Aramaic word that gives us the word Jesus, a name that means "Savior."

When the crowds gathered in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to greet Jesus upon his entry, they shouted

out this word. They weren't merely communicating how wonderful they thought Jesus was. They were also telling him how needy they were. They needed a savior.

We all do. Sometimes the savior is the guy who can repair the plumbing and install new lights. But we also need someone who can repair what's broken inside us. We carry sin and shame, sadness and misbehavior, faults and flaws. So we cry out to God, who can offer us forgiveness and a new start.

The people who shouted "Hosanna" turned against Jesus a few days later. He surely remembered the real meaning of that word as he hung upon the cross. He did not abandon them. He saved them. We praise him. We need him. He is our Savior. †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter, 2015*

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Agony in the Garden: Understanding the Passion of Jesus" by Ronald Rolheiser.

At the time of Jesus, *agonia* was a technical term for what athletes did when warming up for the Olympic Games. During that warm-up, the Greek athletes would produce a sweat that would warm up their muscles and ready them for combat. That sweat, that lather, was called their *agonia*. Luke tells us that Jesus does an *agonia* to get ready for his passion. In essence, Luke is saying, we don't move from day-to-day life to dying on a cross without some preparation. The Agony in the Garden is the warm-up, the readying, the *agonia* for the passion that follows. †

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 this Holy Week we may love those who hurt us, make peace, and do our part in the building of the Kingdom, we pray—
Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 25–30

Monday of Holy Week:

Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week:

Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday of Holy Week:

Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 / 1 Cor 11:23–26 / Jn 13:1–15

Good Friday: Is 52:13–53:12 / Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9 / Jn 18:1–19:42

Holy Saturday: Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a / Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 / Ex 14:15–15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 / Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 / Rom 6:3–11 / Mk 16:1–7

Bringing Home
the Word 

March 24, 2024

© 2024 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2024 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.