



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**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: The Glory Of These Forty Days BB 141  
 Mass Parts: Mass For Christ The Savior  
 Communion: Be Thou My Vision BB 410  
 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). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

<u><b>March 5, 2025</b></u>	
<b>Eastern Europe/Africa</b>	<b>\$1,648.00</b>
 <u><b>March 9, 2025</b></u>	
<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$14,143.88</b>
<b>Storm Relief Offering</b>	<b>\$13,901.92</b>



**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

March 16	Fuel
March 23	Easter Flowers
March 30	CRS and Home Missions

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!

**Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income**

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

**Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase**

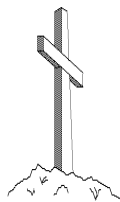
Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$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 2024, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 PM in **Plaistow**. **A Soup Supper will follow Stations on April 11.**

**LENTEN EVENING PRAYER**

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



**THE GOD MINUTE**

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called The God Minute. It's then uploaded for you to access and prayer along with on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be.

[www.thegodminute.org](http://www.thegodminute.org)

**MEN OF ST. JOSEPH BREAKFAST**

Bishop Libasci invites men of the Diocese of Manchester to Holy Mass and breakfast at St. Joseph Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, patron of our diocese on **Saturday, March 22, 2025**. Open seating for Holy Mass. Seating for breakfast is limited to the first 240 registrants. Cost is only \$14. To register for the event go to [www.catholicnh.org/mosj](http://www.catholicnh.org/mosj).



We welcome Parishioners of all ages to help sing during the holiest days of the Church year – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. All you need is a voice to sing and heart willing to learn!

Rehearsals are held at Plaistow in church on Monday evenings from Plaistow from 5:30 -7:00

March 10	March 17	March 24
March 31	April 7	April 14

Please contact Val Barczak at church or email her at [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net).

**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED**

**Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 2024 until Spring 2025.** 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.

**BUSTED HALO**

Busted Halo is a unique media resource sponsored by the Paulist Fathers of the US that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others. Check out their site, podcasts and videos at [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com).

**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 16

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

Monday, March 17

5:30 PM Choir Practice *Plaistow*

Tuesday, March 18

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, March 19  
 Holy Angels Church Open  
 All Day for Prayer

7:00 PM Lenten Journey *Plaistow*  
 7:00 PM Outreach Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, March 20

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*  
 1:30 PM Lenten Journey *Plaistow*

Friday, March 21

6:30 PM Stations of the Cross *Plaistow*

Saturday, March 22

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

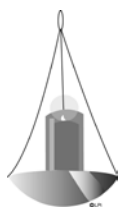
Sunday, March 23

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

**RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS**

**Attention Parents**

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!



The Sanctuary Candle in  
 Mary, Mother of the Church  
 will burn this week in loving memory of

**Allen Neale**

by William Tucker

The Vigil Candle in  
 Mary, Mother of the Church  
 will burn this week in loving memory of

**Marcia Gallant**

by William Tucker



**PRAYER LINE**

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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, March 15 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

*Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Paul Caron by Armand and Rachel Lanseigne  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, March 16 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

*Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36*  
 8:00 AM Ruth Early by Dan and Kathy Sullivan  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his wife  
*Plaistow*

Monday, March 17 ~ Patrick, Bishop

*Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38*  
 8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Ballard and  
 Justin families by Lisa and Charlie Angwin  
*Newton*

Tuesday, March 18 ~ Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and  
 Doctor of the Church

*Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12*  
 8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Plaistow*

Wednesday, March 19 ~ Joseph, Spouse of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary

*2 Wm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;  
 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a*  
 6:30 PM Clara, Leo, and Edward McCusker  
 by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

Thursday, March 20 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31*  
 8:00 AM Henry Cross (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

Friday, March 21 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46*  
 No Mass

Saturday, March 22 ~ Lenten Weekday

*Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 (Day)*  
*Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Joseph Sheehan by Bob and Alice Litwinovich  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, March 23 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

*Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9*  
 8:00 AM Vincent Early, Sr. by Dan and Kathy Sullivan  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM In Honor of St. Michael the Archangel  
*Plaistow*



**CENTERING PRAYER FOR LENT**

Lent is a time to follow Jesus more closely and learn from him how to pray in silence, spending time placing God at the center of your life, opening yourself to a loving Father, surrendering your will, and in trust allowing God to transform you. This interior prayer is how we pray as we Center. Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. This daily practice deepens our faith as we come to better know our God as one who loves us unconditionally, just as we are, and trust God has plans to give us a future of hope. Centering Prayer helps us say to the Father, "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk. 22: 42). Please consider joining us and let God move you closer to him. All are welcome as we gather **Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Following 30 minutes of Centering Prayer, we practice Lectio Divina. We listen to God's words in scripture, ponder, and share what we hear the Lord saying to us here and now and contemplate for the following week God's message to us and let it guide our choices and actions. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God.

If you are interested in joining us or learning more about these practices, please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION RETURNS**

A new bill to legalize assisted suicide has been filed in the New Hampshire Legislature for 2025 (HB 254). The Diocese of Manchester will be working alongside a coalition of advocates for people with disabilities, veterans, young people, and seniors to prevent the ghastly practice of assisted suicide from ever being allowed in New Hampshire. We are once again asking for your help because this year's campaign, like last year's, will demand a strong grassroots effort. Visit [www.catholicnh.org/nosuicide](http://www.catholicnh.org/nosuicide) to learn what you can do.

**INCLEMENT 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.**

**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 at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

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

**✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠**

Parish Office 603-382-8324  
Parish Prayer Line 603-382-8324 x 314  
St. Luke's Outreach Ministry 603-382-8324 x 315  
St. Luke's Food Pantry 603-819-4949  
Preschool 603-382-9783

Fr. Albert Tremblay [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szczapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4<sup>th</sup>) 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**

**Storm Relief**

As recently announced, the Knights of Columbus very quickly stepped up to answer the call for financial assistance to our Parish for storm relief by donating up to \$7,500.00. The Knights take the financial wellbeing of our Parish very seriously.

Knights also serve the Parish by serving as committee members, ushers, greeters, readers, and Eucharistic Ministers.

If you want more information about the Knights, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@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.) Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

**PROJECT RACHEL**

Are you looking for renewal and freedom after abortion? Help and healing are available for mothers and fathers who have experienced abortion. Contact Project Rachel for confidential, compassionate care. Call 603-663-0192 or email [ProjectRachel@rcbm.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@rcbm.org).

**MASS ATTENDANCE WHILE SICK**

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. **Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.**

**Liturgy online or on TV...**

**Boston Catholic Television** [catholicstv.org](http://catholicstv.org)  
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame  
[catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass](http://catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass)  
Salt & Light TV [saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org)  
Eternal Word Television [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com)



**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work**

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Luke 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 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 is on **Wednesday, March 19 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.**

# STORM RELIEF OFFERING



Two weeks of reduced collections left our Parish with well over \$16,000.00 in plowing bills and fuel charges. This situation has stretched the Parish's checkbook to the absolute limit. We already have scheduled Fuel (March 16) collection coming up, and we have added a **special collection on the weekend of March 9** to help defray the expenses of the winter storms and weather.

Please note that the special offering on March 9 will not have an envelope or an option on the Parish Giving system. You can make checks payable to Saint Luke Parish or put cash into an envelope and write your name or envelope number for financial reporting.

**Please be generous...** winter is not over, and we are counting on the whole community to help.



**SPECIAL ADDED OFFERING – MARCH 9**

**FUEL OFFERING – MARCH 16**

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617 have a **CHALLENGE** for our fellow parishioners of St Luke the Evangelist Parish.

To help our Parish pay off the plowing and fuel bills, the Council will match one for one every dollar you contribute to the **STORM RELIEF OFFERING** March 8/9 to assist paying off this bill up to \$7,500.00.

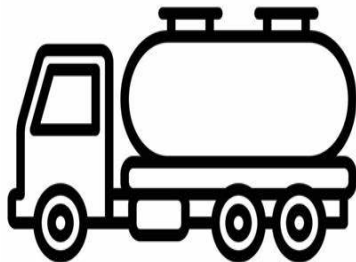


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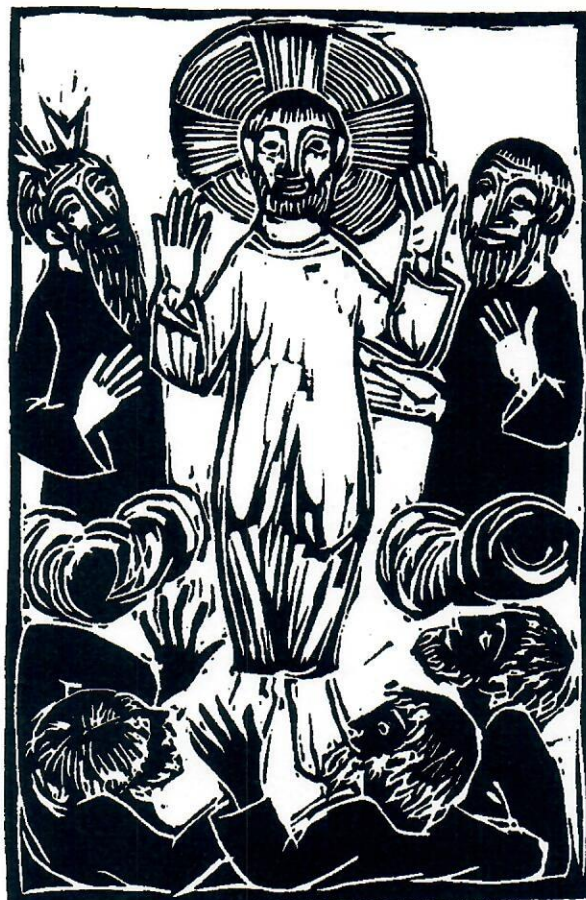
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## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

“Jesus went up the mountain to pray.” Like us, Jesus sought communion with his God and Father. But “while he was praying his face changed in appearance.” It must have been some prayer! The phrase “his face changed” is a metaphor or symbol that it was Jesus himself who really changed. Jesus union with his Father caused Jesus to transfigure – transform. The Gospel of Luke explicitly relates the glory of the transfiguration to the glory of the new life Jesus shares after the resurrection. Jesus shares on Tabor the glory of God that forever changes him on the Easter morning – but Luke also hints at the price of that change.



Luke’s story of the transfiguration is the only one that gives us an ear into the conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah. They speak of Jesus’ “exodus” – his passing that will be accomplished at Jerusalem. The price of the transformation Jesus will undergo is the suffering and death that would come. The Lucan story of the Transfiguration is a divine affirmation of the “Sermon on the Plain” we heard proclaimed in the 3 weeks before Lent began. This affirmation of Jesus’ message and mission contains a challenge to each of us who would follow in Jesus’ footsteps. If we listen to Jesus, we, too, will journey to our own version of Jerusalem, where we will also confront suffering, disappointment and death. But we will also be transfigured – transformed by the experience. Jesus’ way to glory is through his cross. Our way to new life and glory comes only by accepting and carrying our own crosses.

Each of us have come to the mountain top, conscious of our own sinfulness. All of us are challenged to carry our crosses, confident of Jesus’ promise of new life and glory at Easter.



## 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 (C)

March 16, 2025

## Who Was This Man?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**P**eter, John, and James must have asked this question themselves. This Jesus was certainly not the man they had come to know. Here he was radiant, and his clothing was dazzling. Furthermore, he was in deep conversation with two of the greatest heroes of the religious tradition: Moses, the agent of the law; and Elijah the prophet. And then there was that voice that identified Jesus as “my chosen Son” and commanded them to “listen to him” (Luke 9:35). What were they to think? What would anyone think? Who was this man?

Jesus’ own experience was quite

different. While he prayed, he was transfigured, and in that transformed state, he engaged Moses and Elijah in conversation. They discussed his future death in Jerusalem, his exodus, his deliverance. It is important to note that they maintain that his exodus was to be his own accomplishment—not a deed done to him. Who was this man?

It was the mysterious voice from the cloud that provided an answer to that question: “This is my chosen Son.” But what did “my Son” mean? Unlike we who profess faith in the Trinity, it’s likely the disciples still had to learn what being God’s Son was all about. However, they must have realized that it meant something about Jesus’ relationship with God. Every aspect of this mystifying experience told them so. When they came to their senses, the light had disappeared, the ancient men were gone, the voice was silent. And there he was again, the man they had come to know. But who was this man? †



*It was the mysterious voice from the cloud that provided an answer.*

## Sunday Readings

**Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18**

The Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: To your descendants I give this land.

**Philippians 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Luke 9:28b–36**

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

## A Word from Pope Francis

After the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God.... Wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How would I have reacted to the transfiguration of Jesus?
- How have I witnessed an inner light in people I thought were ordinary?



# Resurrection Eyes

Paige Byrne Shortal

**D**id you ever wonder why Jesus chose who he did to be his apostles? Peter, for instance. No disrespect intended, but he seems so ill-suited to the job.

In response to the transfiguration of Jesus, Peter babbles on about building three little houses, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Luke’s Gospel even goes so far as to say that Peter didn’t know what he was talking about. I wonder if Peter didn’t want to somehow put this experience in terms he could understand. After all, there’s his friend Jesus, lit up like a Christmas tree and chatting with two long-dead heroes of the Bible. That had to be pretty awesome, but confusing, too. Sometimes when we can’t stretch enough, we try instead to keep God as small as we are. We decide what God can forgive and what is unforgivable, who God can save and who is beyond salvation, what is possible and what is not.

After Peter goes on about building three little houses, what

happens? A voice from the clouds says, “Peter, hush. You’re missing it. This is my Son. Listen to him!” (Well, those weren’t the voice’s exact words, but that was the drift.) Who really changed? Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the One who was at the beginning of time

and who will be at the end? Or was the change in Peter, John, and James? I can imagine Jesus walking along the dusty roads of Palestine, shining like the sun, maybe conversing with a long-dead prophet or two. But folks didn’t notice. They only saw the carpenter’s son. We see what we want to see, what we expect to see.

I figure what could have happened up on that mountain is that the eyes of the disciples were opened to the way Jesus was all the time. They were given a glimpse of the true truth, a deeper reality. For just a moment, they were given “resurrection eyes.”

From *Live Lent at Home: Daily Prayers and Activities for Families* by Paige Byrne Shortal, Liguori Publications (818691). Available from Liguori Publications. To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

**We see what we want to see, what we expect to see.**

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Lent Day by Day: Living Our Beliefs” by John Shea

The memory of hurt festers. Though we may not swear an oath of vengeance in a public way, merely entertaining inner scenarios of reprisal about how we can get even causes real damage. They color our mental and emotional life and ready us for justifiable violence. The Sermon on the Mount is clear: The inner life is the prelude to action. It counts. So be careful of what festers in the mind.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521, or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, so that we may look for the inner light of others and encourage their light to shine, we pray—Lord, let us be like you. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 17–22

**Monday**, Lenten Weekday: Dn 9:4b–10 / Lk 6:36–38

**Tuesday**, Lenten Weekday: Is 1:10, 16–20 / Mt 23:1–12

**Wednesday**, St. Joseph: 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

**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

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

March 16, 2025

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