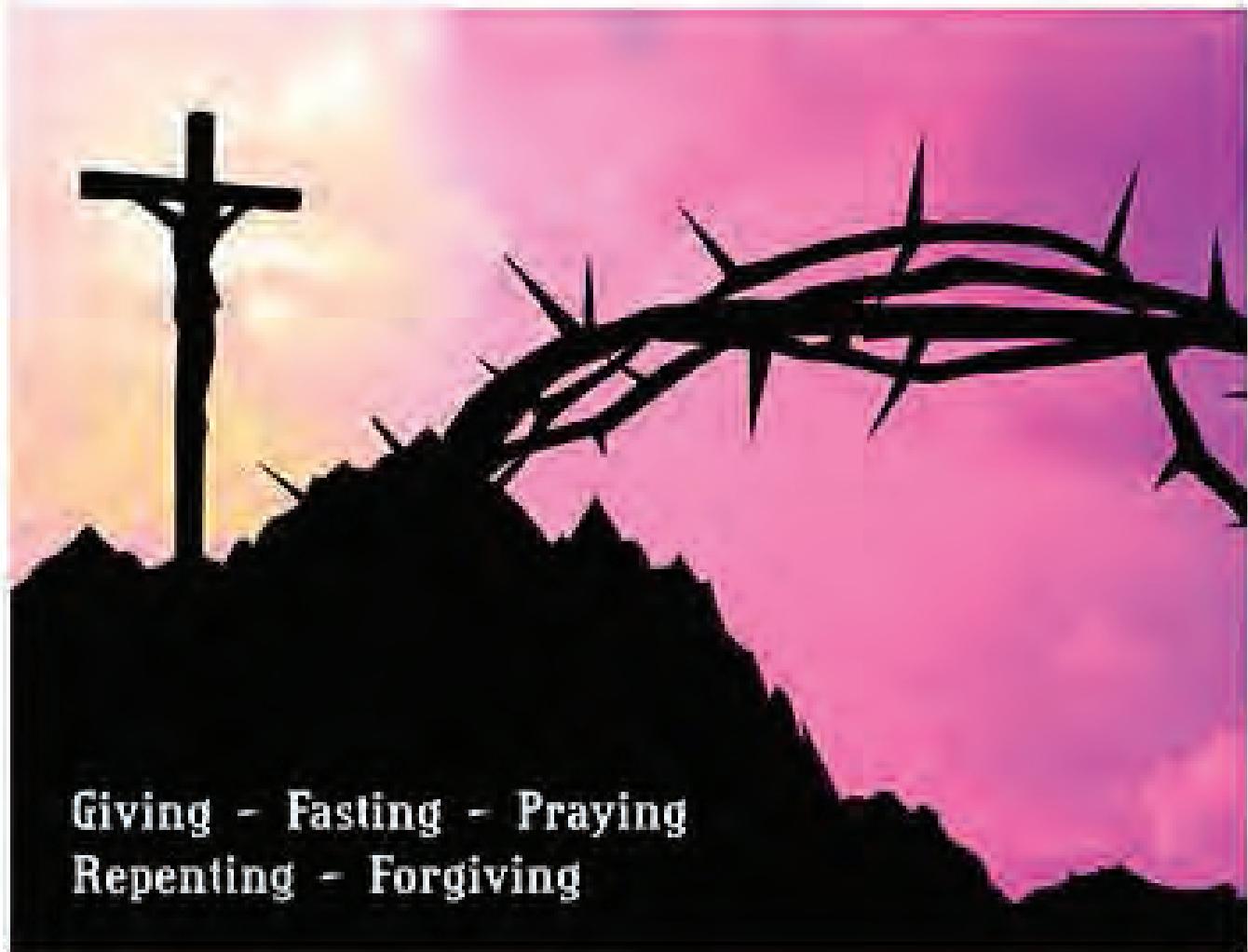


Second Sunday of Lent

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security, and as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

POPE FRANCIS



**Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving**

Church of St. Thomas More

Parish Office: 603-868-2666 Fax: 603-868-3765

Campus Ministry: 603-868-2666 ext. 113

Email: stmdurham@comcast.net

Website: stmdurham.org

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome Child of God!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation,
No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue,
You belong to Jesus Christ and you belong to us!
You are invited, accepted and respected here at the Parish of Saint Thomas More.
Take our hands, Lord Jesus, leading us in courage to confront with courage the forces which oppress and divide.
Take our hearts, Lord Jesus, and open them to the truth which will set others free.
Accompany us on our way, Lord Jesus, as we seek to share our Roman Catholic faith and life in your Spirit.



Lenten Soup

There is nothing more like Lent than soup. So simple and yet so satisfying and reviving at the end of the day.

Each soup maker has their own specialty, prepared in their own unique way. But whatever else may go into the pot, you can't get away from the fact that soup, like people, is mostly water.

Lent is a spiritual soup—

something that nourishes us and revives us by a variety of ingredients.

There are the basic ingredients the Church prescribes: fasting, almsgiving (works of mercy), and the most important, like water in material soup, is prayer.

Then we have alms and fasting—like meat and vegetables that give soup its substance. It is one thing to pray for those in need; it is something more to take the actions of fasting and almsgiving that become the vehicle of God to answer those in prayers.

But like the spices added by creative cooks, there are additional things that are appropriate to the practice of Lent.

Scripture reading
Giving up treats and entertainments
Seeking to cultivate a particular virtue
And repentance

Continual blessings on your Lenten Journey,
Fr. Andrew

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

*A Community of Parish & University Ministry
PO Box 620, Durham, NH 03824; 603-868-2666
stmdurham@comcast.net*

MASSES & OFFICE HOURS

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9am, 11:15am & No Sunday 5pm Mass

WEEKDAY MASS

12:10pm Mass Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tues, & Thurs 9-3pm & Wed 9-1pm **Closed Fri**



Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7pm



March 15th-16th; Second Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Reading II: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

March 22nd-23rd; Third Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9



March 15th-16th; Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – † Elaine McGurty

Sunday 9am – † Dorothy Kazor

Sunday 11:15am – † Leon Bouchard

March 22nd-23rd; Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – † Norman Lamontagne

Sunday 9am – † Jud Porter

Sunday 11:15am – † Sisters Annunciation Monastery



STM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Faith Formation (Grade K-5) Classes March 16th

For more information please contact Ann McGurty
stmfait@comcast.net or call 603 868-2666 X110

Faith Formation

Grades K-5th Classes

9:00am-Kindergarten-Grades 1 (Church Hall Classroom)
10:00am- Grade 2 (Student Center Prayer Rm)
10:00am- Grade 3 (Library Student Center)
10:00am- Grades 4 & 5 (Church Hall)

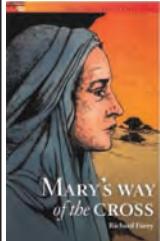
Middle School Youth Ministry

Next class March 23rd

10:00am-Middle School (Grades 6-8) Gym –See MS Calendar

For more information and Sacrament inquiry, please contact Ann McGurty at 603-868-2666 or email stmfait@comcast.net

LIFE- Living In Faith Everyday



*We hope you will join us for
Mary's Way of the Cross
(by Richard G. Furey, C.Ss.R)
on Sunday, March 30th in the gym at 10am
(after the 9:00am Mass).*

*As we journey through Lent and approach
Palm Sunday and Holy Week, let us walk
with Jesus as he prepared for the ultimate
sacrifice.*

*Presentation narrated by our Faith Formation Catechists
& Parishioners.*



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Noel Austin Ed Donnelly Barbara Farrington
Peter Farrington Dot Meneghin Jody Newman
 Emma True Otterbein

For all our homebound and residents of our local nursing homes and care facilities



OFFERTORY UPDATE:

Average Weekly Regular Offertory Amount needed to meet our Annual Budget, \$5,192.31

Ash Wednesday \$ 1,591.00
Offertory for March 9th \$ 4,829.26

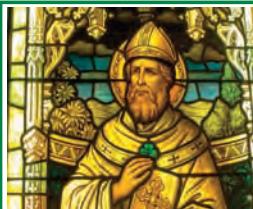
*"Give and it shall be given to you." - Luke 6:38
Thank you for your generous contributions.*



MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN

Our goal is **\$20,000.00**
Please help us reach our goal.
Currently we are at **\$ 17,049.00**

Last week to contribute to the Matching Gift Campaign
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS & DINNER

Mass will be on
Monday, March 17th at 5pm.
There will be a meal after Mass
in the Gym.



St. Thomas More Food Pantry Update

We are appreciative of your response to our weekly needs as a Food Pantry. Our patrons would not have the number of choices they do, without your donations. Our biggest need is for food items. Other types of things such as household goods and clothing should be given to local thrift stores; clothing can also be dropped off at bins by Oyster River Middle School and Mast Way Elementary School. We, unfortunately, do not have the storage for household goods and clothing.

As always, if you would like to join our team, contact Regina Smick-Attisano at rasamom3@comcast.net

This week, at the pantry, we have a need for:

- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Salt and pepper shakers



200 CLUB

The Winners for our February Drawing are:



**Shawn Paley
Steven Castro
Ed Holmes**



Both enrollment and renewal are easy. There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership before the March 30th drawing.

Subscription options are for 3, 6 or 12 months, at a cost of \$50, \$100 or \$200 respectively.

New/renewal enrollment forms are available at the church entrances. Or simply write a check made payable:

St. Thomas More Church

Don't forget to put "200 Club" in the memo section. Mail it, along with your contact information [address, phone, and email], to the parish office at:

**St Thomas More Parish, PO Box 620
Durham NH 03824**

For additional member information contact Tom Dolan at tomdolan84@hotmail.com or 603-519-0369

You have made a difference!!





THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 17

St. Patrick

As a teen, St. Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and treated as a slave. At the time, Ireland was not a Christian land. Turning to God in his captivity, Patrick wrote about his love for God. Around the age of twenty, Patrick escaped and was eventually ordained a priest. He preached and converted many to Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick is known to have used shamrocks to explain the Trinity. To celebrate St. Patrick, reach out to someone and share three things you love about your faith. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36-38.*

Tuesday, March 18

Preach and Practice

Jesus warns those gathered not to be hypocritical. It is indeed important to practice what we preach and to do so in a non-performative way. We are called to serve others and praise God humbly. Pray about your motivations. Why do you serve others? Do you do so for praise or seats of honor? Ask God for the strength to preach and practice modesty, with your heart set on Christ. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1-12.*

Wednesday, March 19

St. Joseph

Scripture portrays St. Joseph's kindness in his unwillingness to expose Mary to shame upon learning of her pregnancy. Instead of denouncing her, Joseph intends to divorce her quietly. Scripture does not reveal Joseph's response to the angel, but we know of his yes to God's call to be Jesus' earthly father. Consider a difficult situation in which you have found yourself. Despite the hurt you may have experienced, what could you have learned from St. Joseph's example? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.*

Thursday, March 20

Walk in the Way of the Lord

Jesus tells the Pharisees about a rich man's neglect of Lazarus, a poor, sick man at the rich man's door. After the men die, their fates are a reversal of their earthly reality: the rich man finds himself in "the netherworld, where he was in torment" while Lazarus "was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham." This serves as a jarring reminder that what we do to our neighbors, we do to Christ. Whom have you neglected to serve? How can you reconcile that this week and walk in the way of the Lord? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19-31.*

Friday, March 21

The Cornerstone

Jesus quotes Psalm 118: "The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone; / by the Lord has this been done; / it is wonderful in our eyes." The early Church used this psalm as a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. After reading today's Gospel, turn to Psalm 118. Familiarize yourself with the psalm by reading it once. Read it again, identifying a word or phrase that stands out. Read the psalm a final time, allowing the word or phrase to settle in your heart. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46.*

Saturday, March 22

Love for Repentant Sinners

Enter today's Gospel through the practice of Ignatian contemplation. Begin by placing yourself in the presence of God. Ask the Lord for guidance. Read Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. Visualize what you read, paying attention to the details. Place yourself in the scene, and interact with the Gospel. Where do you find yourself? Reflect on what stood out to you from your prayer. Respond to God with a word of gratitude. Close with the sign of the cross. *Today's readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Our Saving Light

Bountiful God,
you are our light and our salvation.
Our hearts speak of you,
yearning to see your face!
We ache as we seek your presence.
Hear the sound of our call.
Though we have strayed from you,
guide us back to your bounty;
help us to stand firm in your way.
Grant us the wisdom and courage
to wait for you, who saves.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Listen to Him



Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. Some knowledge of ancient treaties is helpful to understand today's Scripture passages. In the reading from Genesis, we hear the Lord make two promises to Abram: an heir and land. To the promise of land, Abram requests a sign from God: "How am I to know that I will possess it [the land]?" God asks Abram to bring him a "three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram does so and proceeds to cut up the animals, which, at the time, was a way of making a treaty. After darkness falls, a smoking fire pot and

a flaming torch, representing God, pass between the cut-up animal pieces: a sign that God and Abram have entered into a covenant.

As we begin the second week of Lent, reflect on your relationship with God. How can you imitate Abraham and put your faith in the Lord? How can you deepen your relationship with God or enter into an understanding of growing faith? Though your answers to these questions likely won't involve three-year-old heifers, goats, rams, turtledoves, or pigeons, try to commit to a tangible and realistic offering you can bring to God. Bring your reflection to your prayers as you spend time in silence, listening to the Lord.

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