

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

POPE FRANCIS



Giving - Fasting - Praying
Repenting - Forgiving

Church of St. Thomas More

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

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Email: stmdurham@comcast.net

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April 6, 2025

Fifth 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.*



The Discipline of Simplicity

In Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*, he divides discipline into three parts: inward, outward, and corporate discipline. He places *simplicity* under the category of the outward disciplines. Here are his nine ways to order our world so that we can create simplicity in our lives:

- First,* buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
- Second,* reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
- Third,* develop a habit of giving things away.
- Fourth,* refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
- Fifth,* learn to enjoy things without owning them.
- Sixth,* develop a deeper appreciation for creation.
- Seventh,* have a healthy skepticism toward all "buy now, pay later" schemes.
- Eighth,* obey Jesus' instructions about plain, honest speech.
- Ninth,* shun whatever would distract you from your main goal: "Seek first the kingdom of God."

So, what are we to do? Just relax. Slow down. Clear your schedule. Listen to God. Hug a child. Watch a sunset. Hold the hand of a loved one. Fall in love again with the God who has been in love with you all along.

*Blessing on your week,
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 & 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



April 5th-6th; Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Isaiah 43:16-21
Reading II: Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel: John 8:1-11

April 12th-13th; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7
Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56



April 5th-6th; Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5pm – ✠ Christopher "Fritz" Polt
Sunday 9am – ✠ Danny Hunter
Sunday 11:15am – St. Thomas More Parishioners

April 12th-13th; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 5pm – ✠ Francis McGurty
Sunday 9am – ✠ Armand Therrien
Sunday 11:15am – ✠ Christopher "Fritz" Polt

HOLY WEEK 2025



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Sat/Sun March 12th/13th

Come early to receive Palms and be seated before Mass.

Sat 5pm; Sunday 11:15am & 5pm UNH-begins in Church

Only Sun 9am- begins in the Gym

TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY April 17th, 7pm "Mass of the Lord's Supper"

New Holy Oils; Foot-Washing; Adoration-Center Library

GOOD FRIDAY April 18th, 7pm *Passion of the Lord"*



Passion; Veneration of the Cross; Communion

HOLY SATURDAY "EASTER VIGIL" Mar 30, 8pm

Alleluia! New Paschal Candle and Easter Water

EASTER SUNDAY "RESURRECTION of the LORD"

April 20th, 9am & 11:15am



STM FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Classes for Faith Formation Grades K-5
April 6th (Last Class)

For more information please contact Ann McGurty
stmfaith@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 April 6th (Last Class)

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

LIFE- Living In Faith Everyday

OFFERTORY UPDATE:

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

Offertory for March 30th **\$5,756.00**

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



STM Food Pantry Update & Easter Baskets

We are offering an Easter dinner basket to our patrons for their spring celebration. Easter is right around the corner; we are collecting items we don't normally receive such as spring/Easter themed napkins, Easter candy, cake mixes and frosting, salad dressings and canned pineapple or fruit cocktail. Your donations are needed by April 10. Please bring to lobby of the Student Center. We still need monetary donations (gift cards are great) to cover fresh produce, as well.

As always, if you would like to join our team, contact Regina Smick-Attisano at rasamom3@comcast.net. We are doing great for our Thursday sessions but have openings for other times of the week.

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

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Mayonnaise



200 CLUB

Those end of March winds blew some winnings to ...

*Kevin O'Shea
Peg Dolan
Luci Cantin*



Congratulations to All

The next drawing is on April 27, so there's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership.

Both enrollment and renewal are easy. There's plenty of time to become a new member or renew your membership.

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!!



SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, April 12 from
9:30am-3pm**

*We are having our annual
Spring Clean-Up (inside and
outside) the Church. **We need
your help!***

*Last weekend for sign-ups which are available at the main
entrance of the Church.*



MEMORIALS FOR DECEASED LOVED ONES

Kathie Marchi	Robert Clifford
Helen & Fran McGinn	Mary & Gus Wislocki
Imbro Family	Aurilio Family
Holtzman Family	Cathy Coakley
Miguel, Benildo, Jacqueline & Marlon Lucero	
Deceased Members of the Holmes and Ambrose Families	



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 7

Live Jesus in Our Hearts

St. John Baptist de La Salle, a passionate educator, is the patron saint of teachers. As a priest, he dedicated his time to making education accessible to impoverished children. He was devoted to training and directing teachers so they could best serve in their classrooms. De La Salle founded the De La Salle Christian Brothers, who operate education centers around the world. The Lasallian community's expression of faith is to "Live Jesus in our hearts . . . forever." St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:12-20.*

Tuesday, April 8

Speaking This Way

"Many came to believe in him [Jesus]" because of the way he spoke. His preaching focused on radical service, compassionate forgiveness, and always pointed to God the Father. How do you speak and carry yourself? Does it point to God? How can you speak in a way that is pleasing to God? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Wednesday, April 9

Be Free

Jesus responds to the Jews: "Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin." To be free from sin, we must actively choose to turn to God, repent, and resolve to do better. As we approach Holy Week, schedule a time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Before doing so, prepare yourself with an examination of conscience. Consider journaling as a part of your prayerful reflection and bringing this to your confession. Indeed, the truth will set us free! *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, April 10

Friendship with Jesus

Jesus answers the Jews who are persecuting him: he tells them that he knows the Father. They continue to challenge him and, in today's Gospel, throw stones at him. Set time aside today to reflect on your friendship with Jesus. What have you done to cultivate a friendship with him? What have you done to "throw stones" at him? As a part of your reflection, resolve to an action you can commit that will help you grow in relationship with Jesus: consider attending daily Mass, spending time serving someone who is impoverished, reading the Bible regularly, or visiting the elderly. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, April 11

He Heard

Joining the psalmist today, we proclaim: "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice." The Lord is with us in our joys and sorrows. Before you go to sleep tonight, pray with today's psalm. Begin with the sign of the cross. Read the psalm once to familiarize yourself with it. Read it a second time, paying attention to what the psalmist calls God: strength, fortress, shield. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, April 12

Preparing

The end of Lent is near. Holy Week begins tomorrow with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Reflect on your Lenten journey today. Before Holy Week begins, check when your parish celebrates the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Set aside time to participate in this liturgy. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Clearing a Path

God our Father,
you are our protector and our comfort.
You have done great things for us:
you make a way
amid hopelessness
and despite our sinfulness.
Your forgiveness knows no bounds,

and though we weep now,
we know we will soon rejoice.
Help us announce your praise,
relinquish our judgment of others,
and live with our sights set on
pursuing you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Boundless Mercy



Today's readings: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philippians 3:8–14; John 8:1–11. A crowd begins to gather to hear Jesus teach in the temple. The scribes and the Pharisees bring forth a woman who had been caught in adultery. After forcing her to stand in the middle of the crowd, they test Jesus, asking what the woman's punishment should be. The law states that she should be stoned for her sin.

Jesus writes on the ground, and John leaves it to our imagination as to what his words might be. Though Jesus' written words are not revealed, the Gospel records him as saying, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." He bends down again and writes on the ground a second time. Then people leave, per-

haps humbled in the realization that they are sinners and do not have the ability to judge someone else for their sins. Have you condemned or judged another for their wrongdoing? Imagine what Jesus might write on the ground in front of you to encourage you to grow in mercy.

After the woman has been humiliated and brought to the center of a crowd (a crowd well aware of the punishment for her actions), Jesus tells her that she is not condemned. Imagine the shock and relief this woman likely felt. This Sunday, as you listen to the Gospel being proclaimed, bask in God's boundless mercy. Allow yourself to join this woman as she experiences God's unconditional love. How can you let this inspire you to be better and "not sin any more"?

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READY.GOV

Don't be afraid...Be Ready

HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY
BLESSINGS TO
OUR PARENTS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1964

We Love & Miss You Very Much,
Your Five Kids!! XO



Act now to
help end hunger.

In the United States, one in
nine people face hunger.

feedingamerica.org

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AMERICA



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