

Our Lenten Journey

Dear Friends,

Why would we call the forty days of Lent a journey? The Church teaches us that we are a pilgrim people on our pilgrim way to the Kingdom. Nothing is permanent in this life. For the believer our focus is the eternal destiny which holds the meaning of creation, life, death and judgment. Lent affords us the time to cleanse our lives as we strive to grow in virtue, tame our sinfulness and ever be vigilant to the presence of evil. Lent is a journey in the sense that it can be a road which leads us closer to Christ through purification of the senses and the spirit.

A simple Lenten saying, easy for all of us to grasp is:

More fervent in prayer.

More generous in works of charity,

More eager to celebrate the mysteries

by which we have been redeemed.

This threefold theme may help us focus our need for purification.

First, by purifying our lives through fervent prayer we are striving for an admirable goal. Our lives are so hectic that they become analogous to the breaking news stories as we jump from situation to situation. All of us have to be responsible for ourselves and others, and be sure we are attentive to what is essential for body and soul. It never ceases to amaze me when reading the Gospels how busy and engaged the Lord was in helping the whole person. Yet, there is the constant example of Jesus going away by Himself or, sometimes with His disciples to pray. Prayer for me is what gasoline is to the car. Without prayer we don't get anywhere! Allow a greater fervor for prayer in your life. We need only bring our burdens and joys to Christ, speak from our hearts, and ask for guidance and faithfulness and express gratitude.

Second, by purifying our lives through acts of charity, we express our respect for the Great Commandment: Love of God and Love of Neighbor. Lent may afford our hearts the opportunity to express our love for the Lord. There are so many blessings God has given us. The great gift of faith, which we received at Baptism, is paramount. So many of Jesus' parables were about charity because He taught us to respond to the Divine Love of God and mirror it in our lives. This response is made individually by the human person to the Creator in our vertical relation; our love for God is expressed horizontally by our engagement in charity and social justice for our brothers and sisters. "*Lord, when did we see you hungry and thirsty, away from home and sick*" (Mt. 25). What an opportunity Lent affords us to make right our relationship with God and each other. Love demands an effort on our part, but look at the Cross to see the effort it demanded of Christ to show us perfect love.

Third, by purifying our lives, we are eager to uplift and join ourselves to Christ in the sacred mysteries of the Mass. The Mass is different than any other event we experience. There we unite ourselves with Christ's Body and Blood so that we may be transformed. The sacrament of the Holy Eucharist makes present for us the event of the Lord's death on Calvary. The Eucharist is the central event in Salvation History. It must be the central event in our lives too! May we allow the sacred mysteries of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection to save us from all that wears us down, and elevate us to become all we can be.

May this Lent be an opportunity as God's Holy People to draw closer to Him through prayer, works of charity and the sacred mysteries of Mass in which God's saving grace is given. A Blessed Lent to all!

**Father Michael Lawlor
Pastor**



Saturday, March 26
4:30 pm

Helen Larkin

Sunday, March 27
8:00 am

**Parishioners of
St. Paul Parish**

10:15 am
Edward Potter

5:30 pm
**Aurelie and Joseph
Jacques**

Monday, March 28
9:00 am
Lattie Gahm

Tuesday, March 29
9:00 am
**Margo Carafotes
Popken**

Wednesday, March 30
9:00 am
Pamela Nichols

Friday, April 1
9:00 am
**June and Anthony
Passaretti**

Saturday, April 2
4:30 pm
Cecile Cusson

Sunday, April 3
8:00 am
Neal Sahagian

10:15 am
**Parishioners of
St. Paul Pauls/
Deceased members of
the Larkin Family**

5:30 pm
Teresa Manzerra

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2011

Abstinence -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

Fast -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting.

Forming a Catholic Culture Series (FCC)

During the Lenten Season Father Lawlor is presenting a series entitled "Forming a Catholic Culture." They will be held on select Mondays during March/April in the Church Hall from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. They will be directed to deepening our understanding of scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and our personal spiritual formation. Our sessions will explore through the three columns of SCRIPTURE, CATECHISM, and SPIRITUAL FORMATION how we can better open our lives to Christ, appreciate how grace is operative and how we can be transformed by it. Please refer to the Lenten Schedule for dates and times. This series is intended to assist and help our parishioners in living and evangelizing their Catholic Faith. You are most welcome.



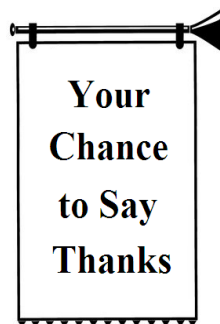
This week we hear about water and thirst. With all of the precipitation this winter has brought, it is hard to imagine being thirsty. The Samaritan woman at the well is an important figure in the Gospel. She is an evangelist par excellence leaving her water jug to tell the townspeople what she had heard. John writes: "Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified. He told me everything I have done." We do not know her name but we know that her conversation with Jesus is lengthy. With whom do we need to have a conversation this week? To whom can we bring the news that Jesus offers living water? Invite someone who has been away to come home. Jesus is waiting.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU - *Celebrate The Sacrament of Reconciliation*

The Light is On For You - On all the Wednesdays for Lent from 6:30-8:00 pm, St. Paul's and all the parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confessions. The Archdiocese of Boston has set up a website, www.TheLightIsOnForYou.org, to help you prepare. It has videos on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sheets on how to make a good confession, answers to frequently-asked questions and more. Please make plans to come on Lenten Wednesdays and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know.

IN APPRECIATION

We thank all those who contributed so generously to Cardinal O'Malley's request for a second collection last weekend to provide assistance through Catholic Relief Services to the people of Japan ,



Eileen Larkin who has served for some fifteen years as our parish secretary will be retiring at the end of the month. Eileen has been a tremendous employee of the parish and her efficiency in the office and her kindness to the parishioners has always been most appreciated. Help us to honor her at the 10:15 am Mass on Sunday, April 3rd followed by a reception in the church hall to which all our parishioners are invited.

We extend to Eileen every best wish and our prayers on this occasion of her retirement.

Father Lawlor

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2011

Lenten Series

Forming a Catholic Culture (FCC)
Mondays, March 21, April 4, 18
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in Church Hall

Daily Mass

9:00 am Monday - Friday
Except Thursdays

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Light is On For You

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 8:00

Saturdays 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Stations of the Cross

for parishioners of all ages

Friday Evenings of Lent

6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

6:15 pm Lenten Supper - Church Hall

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross - Church Hall

Eucharistic Adoration

Saturdays

8:30 am - 3:00 pm



You are invited in Our Lady of Peace Chapel to prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays between 8:30 am until 3:00 pm. The parish also would invite individuals to sign in for selected half-hours throughout the adoration period. Sheets are at the doorways of the Church.

Bible Study with Arthur Abbott

Thursday Evenings - 7:00 pm in Church Hall

Join us this Lent for a bible study on the Gospel of Matthew. We look forward to seeing you there. The bible study started on March 3rd and will continue for six weeks. Please call or email the rectory if you plan on attending.

Code of Ministerial Behavior is signed by our parish employees and volunteers. Its purpose is to create through certain expectations an environment of respect and safety for all. Copies are kept in the church and hall.

Pray for the Sick

Lois Gagne, Beverly Thibeault, Antinetta Mazzetta, Scott Stone, Richard Heck, Margaret Sands, John Sieczwski, Sue Pagliarani, Carolyn Pelletier, Julie Coats, Evelyn E. Nelson, Rita Pooler, Carolyn Dutton, Marie Magill, Lisa Carey, Beth Rebello, Paul Haggerty, Glen Brotchie, Donna Wilson, Linda Wilson, Terry Plourde, and all who are ill, in nursing homes, and for those who are hospitalized.



First Communion Schedule

Saturday, April 30: 4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, May 8: 10:15 am Mass

Saturday, May 14: 4:30 pm Mass

Easter Flower Fund

Easter flowers celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The altar is symbolically bare during the six weeks of Lent. On Easter we decorate the altar with lilies, tulips and daffodils, symbols of eternal life and heralds of spring and new life. If you wish to donate Easter flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, or yourself, contributions may be made to our Easter Flower Fund. Envelopes are available at the church doors. A complete list of the names of the deceased will be in the May 1st bulletin and a Memorial Mass will be offered for them on May 1st at the 10:15 Mass.

In Memory of:

Eleanor P. Cantwell
Paul L. Chagnon
Lena & Joseph DiPalma
Bob Guy
Charles O'Neil
James J. Phelan
Robert R. Riley
Joseph & Lucia Santarelli
SSgt David R. Silveira
Louis Zampell

Given by:

George E. Cantwell
Elizabeth Chagnon
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DiPalma
Frank Medeiros
Anne O'Neil
Elizabeth Phelan
Elizabeth Riley
John & Joseph Santarelli
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Silveira
Theresa Zampell



2011 Catholic Annual Appeal

Giving Hope by Sharing God's Gifts

Please remember our Cardinal Archbishop and assist him in the many good works of the Catholic Church in our diocese. Your gift allows our Archbishop to reach out to assist many people and let them know the love of Christ. Our parish is 15% of goal, so with your participation we can make the appeal a great service. Please:

- (1) READ the Cardinals's case statement from the Cardinal. Packets are available at all the doorways of the church.
- (2) REFLECT concerning what pledge you might be able to make this year.
- (3) RESPOND by mailing your gift directly to the Cardinal's Processing Center. Your gift will be credited to you and to the parish.
- (4) RETURN your pledge envelope by direct mail to the Cardinal's Processing Center.



Anyone interested in singing or the Triduum this year at St. Paul's is invited to choir rehearsals on Tuesdays evenings in the church at 7:00 pm.

Respect Lifeline

It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love.

Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi (Nov. 30, 2007)

THE CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL

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Eileen Larkin

04-0129

March 27, 2011