

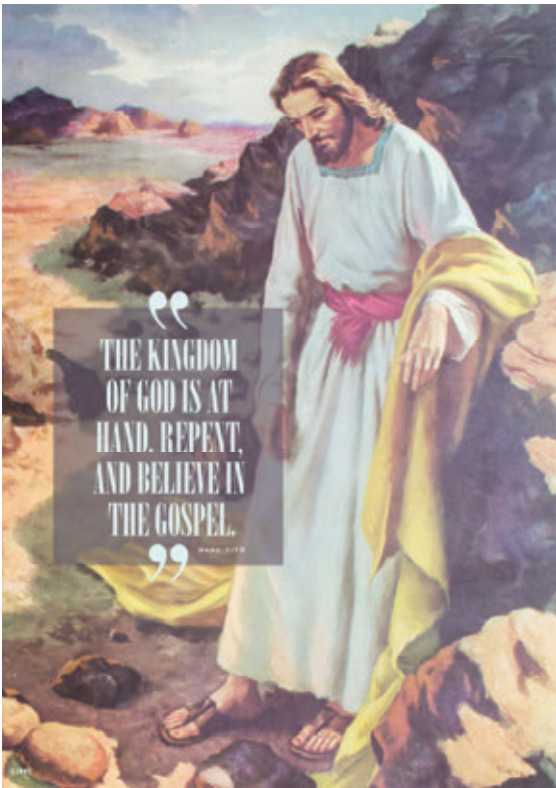
# *Saint John XXIII Parish*

“Create in  
me a  
pure heart,  
O God,  
and  
renew a  
steadfast  
spirit  
within me”

PSALM 51:10



LENT



**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday**

SJE 4:00 PM  
IJ 6:00 PM

**Sunday**

SJE 8:00 AM  
IJ 10:30 AM

**Tuesday**

IJ 8:30 AM

**Wednesday**

SJE 8:30 AM

**Thursday**

IJ 8:30 AM

**Friday**

SJE 8:30 AM

**Saturday**

SJE 4:00 PM  
IJ 6:00 PM

**Sunday**

SJE 8:00 AM  
IJ 10:30 AM

**February 20 Anticipated Weekend Mass**

Deceased loved ones of Kevin Natwick  
Stella Marcoux by Jeannette Chevalier

**February 21 1st Sunday of Lent**

Fr. Roger P Bilodeau by parishioners  
William & Mary Brooks by Rita Clark

**February 23 St. Polycarp**

Intentions of the parishioners

**February 24**

Intentions of the parishioners

**February 25**

Intentions of the parishioners

**February 26**

Deceased loved ones of Joanne Charron

**February 27 Anticipated Weekend Mass**

Intentions of the parishioners

Relatives & Friends of the  
Beaulieu & Blanchette Families

**February 28 2nd Sunday of Lent**

Timothy Coulter by his family  
Theresa Duchesne by Lori & Doug Fowler

IJ = Infant Jesus Church SJE = St. John the Evangelist Church

**STEWARDSHIP REPORTS**

Week Ending ~ February 13 & 14, 2021	
Adult Envelopes (57)	\$1,504.00
WeShare (Online Giving) (50)	\$865.00
Loose Cash	\$588.00
<b>Offertory Total:</b>	<b>\$2,957.00</b>
<i>May our loving God bless you for your continued generosity!</i>	

**PLANET AID UPDATE**

This quarter, our parish received a small stipend of \$203.35 for the many pounds of gently used clothing, coats and shoes gathered in our two bins at St. John the Evangelist and Infant Jesus. Thank you for your ongoing support .



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Friday evenings at 6:00 PM alternating between Hudson and Nashua Churches.  
2/26- SJE Hudson  
3/5- IJ Nashua.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 PM  
at St. John the Evangelist Church.

**Weekly Readings – February 22 - 28**

**Mon.:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19  
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15  
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32  
**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12  
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26  
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48  
**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10



# Saint John XXIII Parish

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2021

You may remember the most challenging part of an essay exam from your school days. It began with the words “Compare and Contrast.” You had better know your material to answer smartly. If for any reason you were weak on the subject at hand, you would likely spin a web of conjecture with the vain hope that your teacher could be fooled by your lengthy burst of meaningless verbiage. I leave to your imagination another more coarse definition of what that’s called!

Readers of Sacred Scripture have no such problem with the Holy Spirit, who is its real Author. He compares and contrasts with a masterful touch as expressed by the human writers. This first weekend of Lent we read the enchanting recap of the flood story in Genesis, wherein the newly dry land becomes the setting for a new covenant God makes with mankind. Combined with His pledge of never sending a flood comes His choice of the rainbow as a perpetual reminder of the Covenant.

Retaining the watery theme is today’s excerpt of Peter’s First Letter, telling us that the waters of baptism have the innate power under the Final Covenant to save us all from destruction.

Then comes today’s Gospel. In his trademark almost texting style Mark tells us how Jesus was tested in the harshness of a water-less desert. We have to depend on the other more detailed gospel versions of the story to learn the exact nature of the devil’s tactics. But what Mark does add is the comfort Jesus derived afterward from ministering angels.

It is relatively easy to compare and contrast flood waters and an arid desert as different backgrounds for the birth of covenants. But what might be more difficult for you and me right here at the beginning of Lent 2021 is the comparison and contrast we can make of keeping our baptismal covenant promises since Lent 2020 until now. Back then the arrival of a certain pandemic came upon the scene. We have presumably since learned a lot about ourselves and how we have handled all the shutdowns and restrictions. Through it all, have we been true Christians with all around us? I believe that with our answer to that one, we could “have our hands full.”

There is lots of room in the process to list those nasty little sins we have committed against others, like impatience, rash judgment and mean words. This not to omit the bad choices we may have made in seeking comfort from our pain with unchaste thoughts and actions along with over indulgence in food and drink. Above all, and more important, is our Lenten resolve this year and what changes we will implement going forward.

God’s covenant of loving mercy and salvation still stands as strong as it ever was. Our spiritual posture is the only variable. This kind of comparison and contrast is a demanding but pertinent Lenten exercise, hopefully targeted at something called “conversion.”

In the “Alice in Wonderland” story, at one point Alice says to the Cheshire Cat, “Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

I don’t much care where,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

As with Alice, so with us and the Church. Without objectives, we will have nowhere to go, and we’ll just keep wandering aimlessly. We need to remember that Jesus once declared for all to hear: “I am the Way.” *Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

## SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS CLAIRE DANEAU LEGACY FUND

For the past seven years the Sisters of Holy Cross have sold raffle calendars to help fund their orphanage in Haiti. Due to the pandemic and the aging membership of the Sisters, they will no longer sell calendars. If anyone would like to continue to support the orphanage donations can be forwarded to : [Sisters of Holy Cross, c/o Claire Daneau Legacy Fund, 365 Island Pond Road, Manchester, NH 03109](#). Thank you for all the support and encouragement throughout the years.

## UNITED WAY TUTORS NEEDED

United Way of Greater Nashua is matching volunteer tutors with students in grades 1 through 11 who need help with Math, Science, Literacy and other subjects. Tutors are needed for IN PERSON tutoring at youth service organizations. For more information contact Sara Ceasar at 603-864-201 or [sceasar@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:sceasar@unitedwaynashua.org).

## Corpus Christi Food Pantry News

Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance has been blessed with extremely generous donors. In addition to the non-perishable food that the client can select on their grocery list, they can also personally select from a wide range of perishable foods. The perishable food is donated from Shaw’s and Hannaford. Some of the perishable food that the client can pick from includes bread and bakery items, fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats and eggs. The perishable food helps the client to round out a healthy, nutritious meal for their family. Thank you once again for your support and helping our clients



## FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

With the hard work of Harvey Construction and their subcontractors, the support of Saint John XXIII Parish, and the effort of our amazing volunteers, Family Promise has made great strides the past couple of months. After watching construction progress for some time, we are ready for families to move in as of February 15th! Ten family suites are ready to greet new residents, and our industrial kitchen is ready to prepare meals. The pantry is full of donated food items, freezers, refrigerators, and food storage areas in place and available for stock. And to ensure security and 24-hour support to our families, we have recently hired two Resident Staff Assistants.

The additional floors are slated for completion by March 15th. Once fully renovated and cleaned, we will be able to house approximately 25 families. Never have we been able to support so many families in transition at one time. We will be able to continue our good work in providing long-term housing opportunities, where families do not have to move to a variety of locations to receive the support that they need. They can call Family Promise of Nashua home for the duration of their program.

We are incredibly grateful and find it hard to express our gratitude for all that has been afforded to us through this project. We are eager to dive in and start giving back. We are eager to see our families move in and thrive in the security of safe housing, hot meals, and the warm family atmosphere that we can now offer.

For more information about our mission, or if you are interested in visiting our new home, please contact Pam Wellman, Executive Director at 603-883-7338, ext.1. For volunteer opportunities, please contact Matthew Hodgkiss, 603-883-7338, ext. 3. Please visit our website at [www.familypromisesnh.org](http://www.familypromisesnh.org).

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Please consider Your Parish in Your Will.  
For further information, please call the Parish Office.  
Thank you.

**Child Safety Reporting**  
If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (under 18 yrs.), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families: 1-800-894-5533 or 603-271-6566.

If you have experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, you may contact the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care of the Diocese of Manchester: 603-668-0014 or 800-475-5585 x233.

Sponsored by the Office for Ministerial Conduct, Diocese of Manchester.

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to our bulletin sponsors for their support during the past year! Your continued support has not gone unnoticed by your parish community and is so appreciated!

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