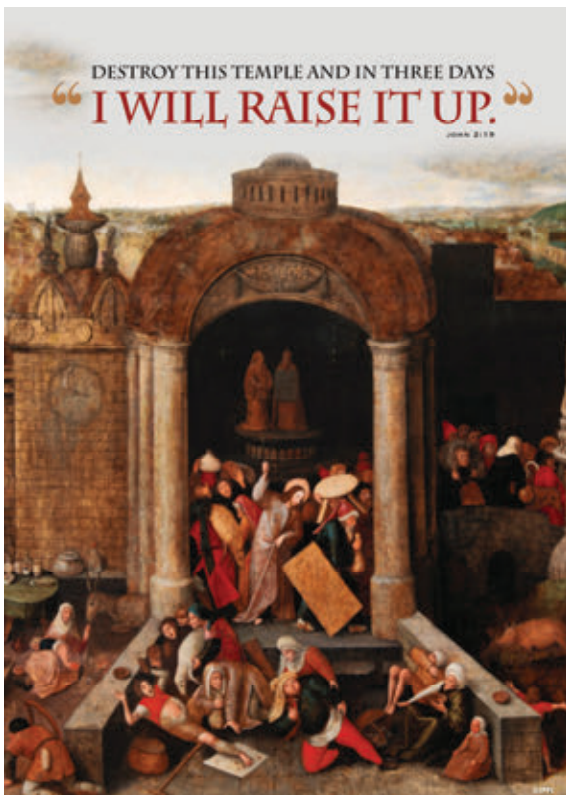


Saint John XXIII Parish

The
Season of
Lent

Is A Time
To **GROW**

Closer to
Jesus



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

March 6 Anticipated Weekend Mass

Thomas Peter 3rd Anniv.
by his wife & family
M/M Albert Poliquin Sr. by their family

March 7 3rd Sunday of Lent

Deceased loved ones of Kevin Natwick
Theresa Duchesne by her family

March 9 Saint Frances of Rome

Intentions of the parishioners

March 10

Intentions of the parishioners

March 11

Intentions of the parishioners

March 12

Intentions of the parishioners

March 13 Anticipated Weekend Mass

Intentions of the parishioners
Roger Lesieur by Diane & Patrick Dubreuil

March 14 4th Sunday of Lent

Timothy Coulter by his family
Paul Charron 7th Ann. By his family

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

Week Ending ~ February 27 & 28, 2021	
Adult Envelopes (54)	\$2,331.00
WeShare (Online Giving) (50)	\$865.00
Loose Cash	\$212.00
Offertory Total:	\$3,408.00
Snow Removal	\$275.00
<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.

3/12 - SJE Hudson

3/19- IJ Nashua

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

Weekly Readings – March 8 - 14

Mon.: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tues.: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wed.: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thurs.: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Fri.: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Sat.: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sun.: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Saint John XXIII Parish

REFLECTIONS FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT 2021

The shock and sadness that most Americans felt exactly two months ago today when the United States' Capitol building was under siege by an uncontrolled mob sprang from our common agreement about the symbolism of the great building. Commentators at the time rushed to call the building "The Temple of Democracy." Emotions ran high that fateful day, not the least of which was a certifiable anger on all sides.

The justifiable anger of Jesus that compelled Him to make a whip to drive out commercialism from the Temple sprang from His belief that the building was the House of God, a symbol of His Father's covenant relationship with the nation of Israel. It was not to be desecrated.

We Christians of today view attacks of vandalism and destruction of our churches as desecration. Whether we are considering our local parish church or churches in far off lands, we somehow feel violated. They are our houses of worship. They "speak" to us of our baptismal covenant and our consequent relationship with God as our Father.

St. Paul goes further and demands that we think of our very bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. The vandalism we choose to wreak on them through sin springs from our inherited weakness but still involves choice. So too for the cleansing. That is one way to describe the main direction of Lent. It certainly involves pain. Pain such as a whip would make on our backs.

Of course, ridding ourselves of a habit takes determination. Something like watching porn makes a demand on one's will power, as millions would acknowledge. It's a relatively new item in the catalog of addictions, joining older entries like those attached to food and drink, gossip or rash judgment, to name a few. Yet the rewards of our cleansing are heavenly, like a hot shower after a run. One feels like a new person.

This Temple cleansing episode offers another important secondary lesson. It is that anger of itself is not sinful. Otherwise Jesus would never have let it grow inside Him to burst out in His dramatic action. We have the right to be angry about a lot of things. Take, for example, with Catholic politicians who leave their faith at the legislature door and vote in favor of abortion.

But what hits home even more are the times we can be angry with ourselves by ignoring our consciences and fall for the devil's enticements to sin. We know he is the deceiver who makes evil decisions like cheating at business, somehow look good. Finally, we have the right to be angry with purveyors of the lie when we know Christ's unerring truth.

On the other hand, unjustified anger will always be sinful, such as that directed at an innocent spouse or children, or at an unsuspecting co-worker two cubicles over at the office. We must respect their temples of the Spirit also. There is in all our Lenten penance the overarching comfort of knowing God's all-embracing love for us and our efforts at reform.

During the November, 1940, World War II blitz in England, Coventry Cathedral was destroyed. Workmen picking through the rubble found a large number of nails from the Middle Ages. The nails were gathered up, fashioned into crosses and plated with silver. One cross of nails was set up on an altar in the ruins of the old cathedral. On the wall behind that are the words "Father, forgive."

Many little crosses made of these nails have since been sent to churches in other countries that had been engaged in World War II. Thousands of picture postcards depicting the Coventry Cross of Nails and the words "Father, forgive" have been distributed all over the world. The Coventry Cross of Nails has become for many a symbol of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace. Let that symbol speak to you this Lenten season. God love you and give you His peace. .by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

For Catholic Charities New Hampshire has an opening for a full time Bilingual Intake Coordinator (English/Spanish required). This position is regularly scheduled for 35 hours/week at our Nashua Service Location, where we provide counseling services to individuals, couples and families, as well as Parish and Community services. We'll pay you based on your experience and offer you a great work environment with generous benefits, including 401(k) plan, medical, dental, life and disability insurance, along with other fringe benefits.

For more information please call or email Kevin Spillane - Recruitment and Compensation Specialist for Catholic Charities New Hampshire at 603-663-0226 or email him direct at kspillane@nh-cc.org

ENTERING THE DESERT WITH JESUS: LENT IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

This past year has felt like one extended Lenten season; many people have experienced challenges due to the pandemic and the time of isolation and quarantine that comes with it. Join the NH Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and Fr. Ryan Amazeen on March 11 as we explore how the traditional disciplines of Lent can help us to overcome some of the temptations associated with the difficulties of a pandemic, and how the circumstances of the pandemic can deepen our Lenten experience. Visit <http://lent-pandemic.eventbrite.com> to register .

CHILD SAFETY ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE
The Office for Healing and Pastoral Care provides services and support, promotes healing, and supports the emotional and spiritual well-being of survivors of sexual abuse and misconduct in the Church. The Office also seeks to be a source of comfort and support for anyone who is a survivor of sexual abuse in any walk of life. If you are a victim of abuse or misconduct by someone representing the Catholic Church, we encourage you to contact the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care at (603) 663-0125. For more resources to assist victims of abuse, visit www.catholicnh.org/healing.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

The annual collection for Catholic Relief Services & Catholic Home Missions takes place on March 13 & 14. *Catholic Relief Services* promotes human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies world wide. *Catholic Home Missions* helps support the Catholic Church where it is most financially challenged in the United States.



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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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