

Parish of the Good Shepherd



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: THE BLENDING OF IMPERFECTIONS AND LIGHT

It can be hard to be both faithful and hopeful during Lent because Lent asks us to focus on the imperfections of our own heart and our own character. It can be hard to look at the shabbier parts of our own lives, and our own failures.

We can find hope in this spare time when we lean into the light of God's love by squarely facing into those qualities and actions in our own lives that block us from the full light of God's love and God's grace. We accept discipline, and we face our own shortcomings, so that we can begin to chip away at them. With God's help, they will get smaller.

Mary Oliver's poem, *The Pond*, offers a mystical wisdom about how to carry imperfection and divine light at the same time. May it be both a comfort and an invitation to us as we continue our Lenten journey together, repenting the sin, and building up our capacity for love, forgiveness, and grace.

Blessings in the journey,

Margaret

The Pond

Every year
the lilies are so perfect
I can hardly believe

their lapped light crowding
the black
mid-summer ponds.
Nobody could count all of them --

the muskrats swimming
among the pads and the grasses
can reach out
their muscular arms and touch

only so many, they are that
rife and wild.
But what in this world is perfect?

I bend closer and see
how this one is clearly lopsided --
and that one wears an orange blight --
and this one is a glossy cheek

half nibbled away --
and that one is a slumped purse
full of its own decay.

Still, what I want in my life
is to be willing
to be dazzled
to cast aside the weight of facts

and maybe even to float a little
above this difficult world.
I want to believe I am looking

into the white fire of a great mystery.
I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing --
that the light is everything -- that it is more than the sum
of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do.

- Mary Oliver, *House of Light*

Daylight Savings Time starts this Saturday night.
Please move your clocks ahead one hour at
midnight on Saturday, as we all "spring forward" in
our snow covered world.

PARISH NEWS – March 4, 2015

Gluten Free Wafers: Our parish now has gluten free wafers for anyone who needs one. Please let Margaret know if you want to have one when you come to the Altar rail.

Adult Forum during Lent: “Who do you say that I am?”

This Lent we welcome all of you to a very special series of Forums in which we will explore within the Christian tradition the true nature of Jesus as reflected by those who knew him best. In these Forums we will look at the ways Jesus is known to us: Word, Lamb, Shepherd, Lord, Rabbi, Son of God. In the process, we will put together a true composite picture of our Lord.

~ Charles Foster

Church School Lenten Project: During Lent the Church School will be collecting school and art supplies for Epiphany School, a tuition free Middle School that services economically-disadvantaged families in Boston. Everyone in the Parish is encouraged to participate. To generate excitement about the project we are having a friendly competition between the church school classes. You can bring anything in that is on the list but we would especially like the items assigned to your class. There will be a donation box in each classroom. Parishioners who do not have Children in Church School can place their donations in the box in the common room. Kindly email Christin Gillooly with questions: cwgillooly6@gmail.com

list of suggested donations:

- copy paper (middle school class)
- dry markers and erasers (middle school class)
- pink erasers (middle school class)

- 3 ring binders (3rd-5th grade)
- spiral notebooks (3rd-5th grade)
- ball point pens (3rd-5th grade)

- pencil cases (1st-2nd grade)
- yellow underliners (1st-2nd grade)
- good quality acrylic paint brushes (1st-2nd)

- crayola fine markers (atrium)
- #2 pencils (atrium)
- tissues (atrium)

From the Director of Education and Programs: Nursery is available every Sunday at 9:45 AM for infants through Pre-K. Children age 3-6 are welcome to the Atrium after attending an orientation (scheduled separately). Please speak with (or email) Mary Ann Stewart with any questions about our Christian Education Program: ce@goodshepherdnewton.org

MARCH

6 - Confirmands' Overnight Retreat in New Hampshire (BCH Camp)

Meet at Good Shepherd 3:00 PM

7 - Confirmands return from Retreat ~3:00 PM

8 - The Third Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

1st & 2nd gr Lower Level Room 2 (Jennifer Manthei)

3rd-5th gr Loring Room (Madison Mixer, Jessie & Geoff Gilmartin)

6th-8th gr Youth Room (Christin Gillooly, Barbara Bower, substitute)

15 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 AM: Level I Atrium

9:45 AM: Church School

1st & 2nd gr Lower Level Room 2 (Jennifer Manthei)

3rd-5th gr Loring Room (Madison Mixer, Jessie & Geoff Gilmartin)

6th-8th gr Youth Room (Christin Gillooly, Barbara Bower, substitute)

The Christian Education Committee will meet in Lower Level Room 2 following the ten o'clock service.

Good Friday Overnight for middle- and high-school

aged youth: At the Foot of the Cross, Trinity Church, Copley Square, April 3-4, 2015. The overnight is presented by the Office of Youth Ministry in partnership with the B-PEACE Coalition for Jorge. Register and more information at this link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eajtch3a56f56a59&llr=s4blzzbab>

Questions? Contact The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Director of Youth Ministries, Diocese of MA: hmsmith@diomass.org or Mary Ann Stewart at Good Shepherd: ce@goodshepherdnewton.org

Summer Camp: Experience the adventurous spirit of the Barbara C. Harris Camp this summer! Children and young people entering grades 4 through 11 are invited to challenge themselves, connect with others from our Diocese, play, explore, create, and grow! One-week camps begin June 28.

Visit bchcamp.campbrainregistration.com for more information. Forms are available on the tract table in the Common Room. BCH Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association. Please speak with Mary Ann Stewart with any questions.

In the triumph of prayer

Twofold is the spell.

With the folding of hands

There's a spreading of wings

And the soul's lifted up to invisible lands

And ineffable peace. Yet it knows, being there

That it's close to the heart of all pitiful things;

And it loses and finds, and it gives and demands;

For its life is divine, it must love, it must share

In the triumph of prayer.

~ **Evelyn Underhill**, *From Theophanies*

Lenten blessings,
Mary Ann.

Donating Flowers for Easter 2015

Easter flowers may be given in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. Please use the attached form to print names clearly on the appropriate lines and include a check in any amount made out to *Parish of the Good Shepherd* with *Easter flowers* written in the memo area. The form and check can be put in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed back to the church office. To insure inclusion in the Easter Eve and Easter Day orders-of-worship be sure the names have been submitted to the church office by March 22.

EASTER FLOWERS

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

OR

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

GIVEN BY
