

Lenten Gospel Giving 2018

The traditional foundation for Lenten practice rests on three supports: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. To assist families in the third of these supports, we again participate in Lenten Gospel Giving this year. Each week an item is chosen to reflect the readings of the day and all members of the parish are asked to bring that item with them to Mass. The gifts are then donated to the various needy causes we are supporting. Please read the list below for each week's Scripture and its item. There will also be a reminder in the bulletin each week for the week we are in and the one coming up.



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT—FEBRUARY 17/18

"...when the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings." (Genesis 9:11)

"I am establishing my covenant with you...your descendants... and the animals that were with you and came out of the ark." (Genesis 9:9)

The Story of Noah's Ark—please bring new or gently used **STUFFED ANIMALS** for NuDay Syria, for children recovering from injury and trauma in Syria.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—FEBRUARY 24/25

"His clothes became dazzlingly white-whiter than the work of any bleacher could make them." (Mark 9:2-10)

Dazzlingly white signifies cleanliness—please bring **LAUNDRY DETERGENT** or **TOILETRIES** for The Psychological Center (Daybreak Shelter, Pegasus House, and Women's View in Lawrence).



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT— MARCH 3/4

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom..." (1 Cor: 22-25)

Wisdom—please bring **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** for St. Ann's School in Methuen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—MARCH 10/11

"Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." (John 3:14-21)

Light—please bring a package of **LOW ENERGY LIGHT BULBS** (60-75 watts) for Project Home Again.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—MARCH 17/18

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (John 12:20-33)

Wheat—please bring a box of **PASTA** or **CEREAL** for Neighbors in Need.

PASSION SUNDAY—MARCH 24/25

"Many people spread their cloaks on the road..." (Mark 11:8)

"And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him." (Mark 15:20)

Clothes—please bring a new or gently used men's or women's **SHIRT** or **SWEATSHIRT** for the International Institute of New England in Lowell, helping refugees and immigrants in our community.



Some Lenten Service Opportunities

LAZARUS HOUSE MEAL SERVICE

Sunday, February 18, 4:30-7:00 pm

Sunday, March 18, 4:30-7:00 pm

We need a team of four people to prepare and serve the evening meal to the residents at the Holly Street emergency shelter (about 25-30 people) in Lawrence (near Central Catholic). Individuals welcome—we will make sure there are four people. The meal is planned and everything you need is onsite at the shelter.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Anytime

You can drop off your non-perishable food donations for Neighbors in Need anytime throughout the year in the wooden bin in the vestibule (against the wall just outside the rest room).

LAZARUS HOUSE SOUP TRUCK

Sunday, February 25

Sunday, March 18

The Lazarus House soup truck goes out every Friday and Sunday from January through March with enough soup, sandwiches, and baked goods to serve about 100 people per run. There are two Sundays during Lent when we will be looking for volunteers to help make the items to supply the truck—February 25 and March 18. Volunteers will be asked to prepare soup, sandwiches, or baked goods. In addition, on March 18 there is an opportunity for two people to go out with the truck to distribute meals. Final details on what we are preparing for each month will be provided when you sign up.

NUDAY SYRIA CONTAINER DAYS

Thursday, 2/22, 12:00-2:30 pm

Thursday, 3/1, 12:00-2:30 pm

Thursday, 3/22, 12:00-2:30 pm

Friday, 3/23, 5:00-9:00 pm

Sort donations and pack shipping container preparing for delivery to Syria. Warehouse is located at 8 Tinkham Ave., Unit E, Derry, NH. Family friendly opportunity.

BREAD & ROSES MEAL PREP

Weekend of February 17/18

Weekend of March 17/18

There are two opportunities during Lent to contribute to our monthly commitment to Bread & Roses. Food items needed: cooked ground beef (our most important need!), soft tacos (medium size please), packages of shredded cheese, packages of taco seasoning, jars of salsa, lettuce, tomato, cucumbers, large cans of fruit salad, cookies or brownies. Watch for the reminders in the bulletin.

Questions? Need other ideas?

Email kbailey07@comcast.net for more information on any of these initiatives or if you want help finding another option for you or your family. Or join the email mailing list to receive regular updates about service opportunities at St. Robert's and in the local community.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

There are several build dates (full day) as well as opportunities at the Restore (2-hour shifts) available during Lent. Click on the Volunteer link on their website at www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org. No experience necessary!