

## Journey of Faith

## A New Thing

Ann Wolf

All three of today's readings speak of newness, of hopefulness. The Jewish people were on the verge of being liberated for new life in Jerusalem when God spoke to them in the first reading. Paul proclaims a new concept of God in the second reading. And the gospel proclaims wholeness and new life in the forgiveness of sins.



The first reading from the Book of Isaiah announces liberation for the Jewish people held captive in Babylon. Cyrus the Great of Persia was in the process of overtaking the

Babylonian forces, and deliverance was at hand. The people could not know what their future held, but they hoped for freedom – freedom to repossess their land, freedom to once again worship Yahweh in the Temple. Some of their dreams were to be realized. Though they would never again claim the power that was theirs under David and Solomon, they would be allowed to return to their holy city and to rebuild a Temple for their God.

For the Jewish people, life was one of remembrances. In the midst of suffering and slavery their thoughts always turned to the mighty deeds that God had wrought in the past – deliverance from the hands of Pharaoh in Egypt. The Exodus was not just an event of the past; it was relived every year in the Passover feast. Never were those saving events more remembered and hoped for than during times of oppression.

But Yahweh was calling the people to move beyond those remembrances now. Something new was about to happen – something more wonderful than they could imagine. And this wondrous event would be in spite of Israel's faithlessness. Even though they had forgotten Yahweh, Yahweh had not forgotten them. Yahweh would be faithful for all time.

Paul also reminded the Corinthians of Yahweh's faithfulness. God had not been like those saying yes one moment and no the next. Neither did Paul change his story when he proclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God. Paul's arguments pointed to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's Word. But the early Christian community must have had many questions regarding this person, Jesus of Nazareth. Never before had God become a human person. Never before had God been truly one among them. This was beyond their experience.

Because we believe Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's Word, we affirm our belief in the Creator through our belief in Christ. It is through Christ that we say Amen to God. And it was through Christ that God affirmed these people as a new creation, a gathering of Jews and Gentiles into a new people of God.

*"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"—he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." - Mk 2:9-11*


**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday February 18**

**4:00 PM Bella Normandin, Req. by M/M Roland Rocheleau  
Brian Egan, Req. by the Flynn Family**

**Sunday February 19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 AM Leon Bedard, 28<sup>th</sup> Ann, Req. by family  
Peter Giammalvo, Req. by Claire Dube  
11:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the Parishioners**

**Monday February 20**

**8:00 AM Wincenty & Josephine Skamarycz, Req. by Stan**

**Tuesday February 21**

**8:00 AM David Plamondon, Req. by Mom & Dad**

**Wednesday...February 22**

**8:00 AM Edward Dube, Req. by Deacon Rod**

**Saturday....February 25**

**4:00 PM Eleanor & Joseph Sava, Req. by family  
Suzanne Maynard, On the occasion of her  
Birthday, Req. by family**

**Sunday....February 26 First Sunday of Lent**

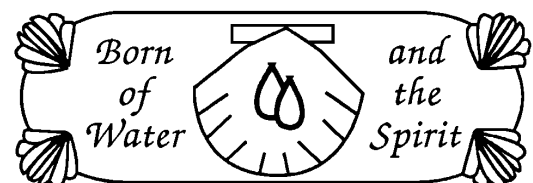
**9:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the Parishioners  
11:00 AM Irene Gagnon, Req. by Wellington Residents  
Anne Dugas Cote, Req. by mother & sisters**

**Church Support**

Giving is an act of the heart....You may give without loving...but you cannot love without giving.

Last Week's Offering	172 Envelopes	\$ 3,491.75
Children's Offering	1 Envelopes	\$ 2.00

*Thank you for your generous support of the Parish. Your weekly financial support enables Saint Edward's to provide for the needs of our Parish.*



*The Baptismal Workshop and instruction for parents wishing to have children Baptized is held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Pre-registration for the session is required. Please call the rectory at 978-874-2362 to register for the session. The next workshop will be held on March 1, 2012.*



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

+On Wednesday of this week we begin the season of Lent as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. Lent serves as a great chance for us to think about our relationship with God. The parishes of our deanery are holding our Lenten pilgrimage as we did last year. Ash Wednesday is the first week of the pilgrimage and each parish will start the pilgrimage dedicated to Our Lady of the Way in our own parishes. We also will be celebrating Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7:00 P.M.

Have a great week!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Bill*

### **Praying the Roman Missal**

Before we go to Communion, we say the words, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." On the surface, these words sound strange, but they echo the words of the Roman centurion, who uttered these words of faith when Jesus came to his house to heal his servant. May we echo the sentiment of the centurion as we prepare to receive the Lord in our lives.

### **"Knights of Columbus"**

The Otter River Council of the Knights of Columbus will be in the foyer of church after all Masses on the weekend of February 25 and 26. Men eligible for membership within our parish who are interested in having their family's join the Knights are asked to complete the prospect card that will be distributed at all masses. Just complete the card and hand it to one of the Knights as you leave. We welcome your interest and invite your participation. Thank you,



cribbage and Bingo as well as refreshments for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

Game Day Wednesday  
February 22 from 1-3pm in the  
Parish Hall. We will supply  
board games, cards, dominos,

Readings for the Week of February 19, 2012  
 Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12  
 Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29  
 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37  
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25  
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15  
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32  
 Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

### **"Lenten Novena"**

The Lenten Novena will be offered again this year. The first week of the Novena for all will be held in your own Parish. The following weeks will be hosted by other churches. Each week the bulletin will give the details for the following week. If interested, pickup a brochure at the back of the church for the full schedule. The first week of the Novena will be on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm and the theme for Week #1 is "Starting a Journey to God".



### **"Eddy's Chowder House"**

*Eddy's Chowder House will begin on February 24<sup>th</sup> and will continue on all the Fridays of Lent: March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall from 4-7pm. Menu is Clam Chowder, Corn Chowder and Fish Chowder. Cost is \$ 3.60 per 12 oz. bowl, \$ 4.80 per pint and \$ 8.80 per quart. Eat in or takeout available. For more information, please call Louise at 978-874-0639.*

### **"Saint Edward's Outreach"**

Are you homebound and in need of assistance? Are you or a family member ill and need rides to the hospital or meals for the family? The Saint Edward's Outreach Program may be available to help with this (and more)!! Please contact Anne Moriarty at 978-874-2345 if needing help OR if you'd like to be added to our committee of helpers.

### **"Annual Priestly Vocation Retreat"**

*On Palm Sunday weekend, the Diocese's annual Vocations Retreat will be held at Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT from Friday, March 30, 6pm to Saturday, March 31, 6pm. This retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester. Men who are high school age, college age, and post-college age are invited to attend. This retreat is directed by Bishop McManus and the cost is free. Transportation is also provided to and from the retreat center. Contact Father Jim Mazzone, Director of Vocations, at 508-340-5788, by email at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net), or go to [worcestervocations.com](http://worcestervocations.com) for more information or to sign up for this retreat.*

### **"Westminster Food Pantry"**

Just a reminder that the Westminster Food Pantry is available to families or individuals finding it hard to make ends meet. The pantry, located in the basement of the Congregational Church, is open Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. All that is required is proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill) in Westminster. Please call 978-874-1793 with any questions.

**END OF BULLETIN  
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE  
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **St. Edward the Confessor Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Westminster**

ROUTING CODE: **R**

RUN NUMBER: **2**

FILENAME: **03-0620.13b**

PHONE NUMBER: **978-874-2362**

FAX NUMBER: **978-874-1024**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Kathie**

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWTN**