



Along The Way

The Weekly Newsletter of The Church of the Good Shepherd - Wareham March 12, 2024

Reflections

*From the
Pastor*



Good Shepherd Friends,

How big of a role does fear play in your daily life? If you don't believe fear plays a role, what about worry or anxiety? Do you worry about your future, your past, about not having enough, about not being good enough, about relationships, or about your children? Do you worry about our country, our world, or about the weather? Does watching the news make you anxious?

I believe that a vast majority of us, if not all of us, live with fear every day. Sometimes that fear may be relaxed a bit, but it is always there. I think that it is safe to say that all of us realize that living in fear is not healthy. So, what do we do about it? We turn to God and ask for God to help us with our fears, and we need to do this every day. In doing so, we are acknowledging that fear is a part of our lives and threatens to control us. In doing so, we begin to recognize our fears, bringing them out of the shadows. Then we ask God to give us the strength to overcome our fears.

In addition to praying for God's help, it is good to eliminate things in our lives that stoke our fears; this may include excessive news watching (especially in the evening), social media, partisan politics, and violent movies and television. Perhaps deleting news apps and alerts on your phone would help. Instead, build in technology free time during your day, especially in the evening. When fear begins to build in your life, I encourage you to take a quiet walk; to be still, be quiet, and pray, doing less talking and more listening.

"Do not be afraid" are words we hear often in the bible. I guess our ancestors in faith lived in fear as well. That message from God is meant for us as well.

Peace,

Pastor Dan

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 16, 2025

8 AM	10 AM
<p><u>READERS:</u> CHUCK MCCULLOUGH</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> RICH SOUZA</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MICHELLE MURRAY</p>	<p><u>READERS:</u> SCOOTER HOLCOMBE JANE MANDELL</p> <p><u>HOSPITALITY:</u> GINGER BARRETT & BILL WILBURN</p> <p><u>EUCCHARISTIC:</u> MAURICE PARKONEN</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> S.G. PRESTON & ALLY PRESTON</p>

WEEKLY SCRIPTERS

[SUNDAY READINGS
CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY VESTRY MINUTES

[VESTRY MINUTES
CLICK HERE](#)

[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2_img.jpg\) Follow us on Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) Parish Website](#)

A FEW NOTES & REMINDERS

1. At both Service this coming Sunday, March 16, there will be prayers for healing. All are welcome to receive prayers for healing. Look below for more information.
2. This coming Sunday is a Sunday School Sunday.
3. If you have parish information to pass on to the Good Shepherd community in our weekly newsletter ("Along the Way"), please submit the information to our office manager Cathi Maurice or to Pastor Dan.

[CLICK HERE FOR PARISH CALENDAR](#)



Hello good people of Good Shepherd!

This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month, another **Good & Green Sunday!** Bring in your cans and bottles, your sneakers and enjoy the Good & Green Team coffee hour.

Our **"Good & Green Theme"** for March on our bulletin boards and web page is: **"Sustainable Gardening Practices"** as many of you may be preparing the soil for the growing season.

As we head into the celebration of **Earth Day** (April 22) and **Earth Month** all April long, your Good & Green Team is preparing for a big month of education and activities including our annual Good & Green pledge for our parish, a **clean up day on April 22** and more. Stay tuned!

As we start our new year of caring for God's good creation, we are going to focus on the first 2 Rs of our mission: **Reducing and Reusing.** As our recycling programs locally, nationally and internationally struggle to be able to handle the proliferation of waste being created in our world, our team is going to focus on ways to **reduce** our use of single-use plastics and other "stuff" we don't need but maybe buy out of convenience and to learn to reuse what we already have. Our pledge form will give us opportunities to take small steps to reign in the creation of packaging and products that harm God's creation.

As a start here are some good and green resources for this Lenten season:

Guide to a Green Lent:

https://franciscanaction.org/wp-content/uploads/attachments/40Days40Ways.FINAL_.pdf

Creation Justice Lent Devotional Resource:

<https://www.creationjustice.org/lent.html>

As your Green Deacon, I send us all out into the world to love and serve the Lord and all of God's creation. Thank you for your support of your Good & Green Team!

Current Happenings

WEEKLY UPDATE

Prayers for Healing – Sunday, March 16

As part of our Sunday Services on March 16, there will be an opportunity for you to receive prayers for healing. These prayers for healing will be available after the sermon. Along with the healing prayers, a blessing with blessed oil will be given. All are invited to come forward to receive healing prayers, since we are all in need of various kinds of healing in our lives.

Discretionary Fund Donations

Please consider donating to the Good Shepherd Discretionary Fund. It is from the discretionary fund that Pastor Dan assists those in need. You may make contributions to the discretionary fund at any time during the month by placing them in the offering box at the entrance to the church in an envelope marked discretionary fund (there are some in the back of the church) or by mailing them to the parish office. Checks should be made out to "Church of the Good Shepherd – Clergy Discretionary Fund." Thank you to those who have made contributions in the past!

Easter Flower and Decoration Donations

Donations to the Easter Flower and Decoration Fund can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings in your life. Donation envelopes/forms are available in the back of the church sanctuary and on our church website. Your donations will help us to decorate the church for the celebration Easter. The names of those in whose name donations are made will appear in the Easter Service Booklets. **Please return the form and your donation by Palm Sunday (April 13).** Thank you!

Why Does the Church Look So Different During Lent?

You may be wondering why so many things in the church are covered with purple cloth, why the large Paschal (Easter) Candle has been removed, and why the church is so simply decorated during Lent. These are visual reminders that we are in the Season of Lent. It is important that we not only "know" that it is Lent, but that we also experience and "feel" it. By simplifying our environment, we send subliminal messages to our hearts and minds that we are in the season of prayer and reflection; during which we are invited to focus our lives more deeply in God's Spirit and to reflect on what we are doing with the gift of our lives. In Lent we are encouraged to deepen our commitment to following The Way that leads to the fullness of life, as Jesus has shown us.

Why the Pile of Rocks in the Church?

The pile of rocks at the entrance to the altar area of the church serves as a symbol of the burdens/anxieties/fears which distract us and keep us from living fully as God intends for us to live. Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, you are invited to write your life's burdens/anxieties/fears on the purple pieces of paper found at the back and front entrances to the church and place the folded paper onto or between the rocks. This is a way of giving them to God and trusting that God is helping us. On Good Friday the cross will be placed into the rock pile, symbolizing the transformative power of God's Love; that with God's help, our burdens/anxieties/fears can give way to new life. On Easter Sunday and throughout the Easter Season, the rock pile will be replaced by the baptismal font and the Easter Candle, symbolic of our new life in Christ.

A Cursillo Weekend Invitation: Exploring a Deeper Relationship with Jesus

The Massachusetts Episcopal Cursillo is having their next Cursillo weekend on April 3-6 at LaSalette in Attleboro. This weekend is open to all who would like to explore a deeper relationship with Jesus. The program runs from Thursday evening to Sunday evening, there are a series of talks given by lay people and spiritual advisors, discussion on the talks, lots of singing and good food and a chance to meet some new friends. We stay at the facility for the weekend, all our meals are provided along with rooms to sleep in. We will provide transportation to and from LaSalette.

What is the Cursillo Ministry?

- An opportunity to grow in faith and in spirituality.
- A deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how we can serve Him.
- An experience of living and sharing with others in a loving and caring Christian community and realizing that this can be extended into our own environment.
- A continuing community that gives support and encouragement to help Christians carry out their Baptismal Vows

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please see Chuck or Donna Tolley after the 10 AM Service or contact us at 508-888-9337 or cntolley@gmail.com or dtolley714@gmail.com.

The 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal

As a diocesan community, we have been asked to support the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal. In this year's Appeal, Bishop Julia Whitworth highlights three areas of our life together: Strategic Assistant Pastors, Collaborative Ministries, and Equipping Churches for Growth: "Each of us, in this generation, is called to give to the witness of the Church in our own time, both locally in our worshipping communities and collectively in our diocese to strengthen and expand the work to which God calls us." *The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth* [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. Please make your donations, as you are able, by March 31. You may donate directly to the Bishop's Appeal through the link above, or by placing your donations (checks made out to "Bishop's Annual Appeal") in an envelope marked Bishop's Appeal and placing the envelope in the offertory box in the church. Thank you.

Mid-Week Eucharist

On Wednesdays at Noon, there is a celebration of the Eucharist in the church, which is open to all. This is an opportunity to gather for prayer and reflection; and be reminded of God's presence between Sundays. For those on your lunch break, the celebration of the mid-week Eucharist is approximately 20 minutes. ***There will be no Wednesday Eucharist on March 26.***

Please Stay Home When You're Not Feeling Well

This is a reminder that if you have covid or another contagious illness, please do not come to the church. Basically, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. It is important that you stay home and rest, and it is important that we be vigilant in order not to spread viruses with one another. Remember, the 10am Sunday Service is offered on Facebook Live every Sunday, and the link to the recorded Service is sent to those on our church email list following the live Service. Stay home, rest, and participate online.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held during the first half of our 10am Sunday Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. The Sunday School is located in the church meeting room, in the office area. All Sunday School volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. Please contact Pastor Dan for more information. The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org).

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery

The Good Shepherd Sunday Nursery (for children through kindergarten age) is open during our 10am Sunday Services. Children are most welcome in the church, but the nursery will be available for them as well. Children can arrive at the nursery beginning at 9:50am and the nursery will close 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 10am Service. The Sunday Nursery is located on the third floor of the church, which can be accessed at the top of the church office stairwell in the back of the church building, through the door (marked Sunday Nursery). All nursery volunteers have undergone CORI background checks and received training, including the Safe Church training required by the Episcopal Church for all those who work with children. If you have questions about the nursery or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office (508-295-2840). The registration form can be downloaded from our Good Shepherd website (www.goodshepherdwareham.org). ***Because there will be a Children's Service on March 30, the Sunday Nursery will not be open on March 30.***

Be Aware of Scammers

Be aware of scammers who send emails or texts to church members in the name of their pastors (the fake emails are very close to the pastor's authentic email address), asking them to send gifts cards electronically to support those in need during a crisis. Please do not do so. I would never ask you to send electronic gift cards. If you are not certain about an email or text, please call me or email me (using my correct email) directly with your questions. ***Pastor Dan***

Prayer Shawl Ministry

As a way of reaching out to those who are ill or struggling in some way, parishioners have knitted shawls to be given to those who can benefit from receiving these gifts of warmth and comfort. Pastor Dan blesses each shawl before it is given. He prays that "this mantle be a safe haven...a sacred place of security and well-being... sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones." Please contact Judy Ellis (Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator) or Pastor Dan if you would like a shawl for yourself or someone else. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, and join our knitting team, please be in touch with Judy Ellis (508-295-5318). There is a very basic pattern that makes a beautiful, lacey shawl. It can also be modified to make a man's lap robe. All patterns, of course, are welcomed. If needed, yarn will be provided. If you would like to support the prayer shawl ministry but do not knit or crochet, ask Judy about a way you can help.

Prayer Request Book

In the back of the church on Sunday mornings, there is a Prayer Request Book. As you come into the church each Sunday, you are welcome to record in the Prayer Request Book the names of those who need prayers. During the prayers of the people, we pray for "all those whose names have been recorded in the Prayer Request Book."

Sunday Coffee Hour

Every Sunday, following the 10am Sunday Service, coffee hour is held in the Church Hall. Coffee hour is an opportunity for us to further get to know one another and share our lives with one another. The wearing of a facemask is welcome, for those who choose to wear one. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate at coffee hour.

Good Shepherd Table

Good Shepherd's Table serves a free in-person meal, which is open to the public, every Thursday at 4:30pm. Take-out meals are available from 4:30-4:45pm for those who choose not to eat indoors with others. Like all other indoor church functions, if you are not feeling well, please do not participate in the Good Shepherd Table indoor dining.

Pastoral Care

If you would like yourself or someone else placed on the Good Shepherd prayer list, please contact me (Pastor Dan). The Good Shepherd prayer group prays daily for those on the prayer list. If you need or would like a pastoral visit from the priest, please let me know. My contact information can be found below and is also on the back of the weekly Sunday Service Booklet. The only way I know that you need a pastoral visit is if you let me know. You might want to keep my contact information (cell # 603-953-3659 for emergencies) somewhere handy, so you know where to find it if the need arises. Pastor Dan

Contacting Pastor Dan

You can contact me by email (pastor.dan.bernier@gmail.com), by calling the church number (508-295-2840) and leaving a message, or if it is an urgent matter by calling me through my cell phone (603-953-3659). Pastor Dan

WCTV Sunday Service Coverage

WCTV, the Wareham local access channel, will now be broadcasting recordings of our Sunday Services. The recorded Services will air a week later. WCTV can be found on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 30. This is a good way to share Jesus' message of love and compassion with our Wareham community, and also let people know about our Good Shepherd community.

Please "Like" us on Facebook

Please like us on Facebook ("Church of the Good Shepherd Wareham") so we can get the word out about what is happening in our parish community, especially about our Facebook Live Services