



Saint Luke the Evangelist

A Roman Catholic Community
Serving the People of Westborough Since 1870

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 20, 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

"I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:6

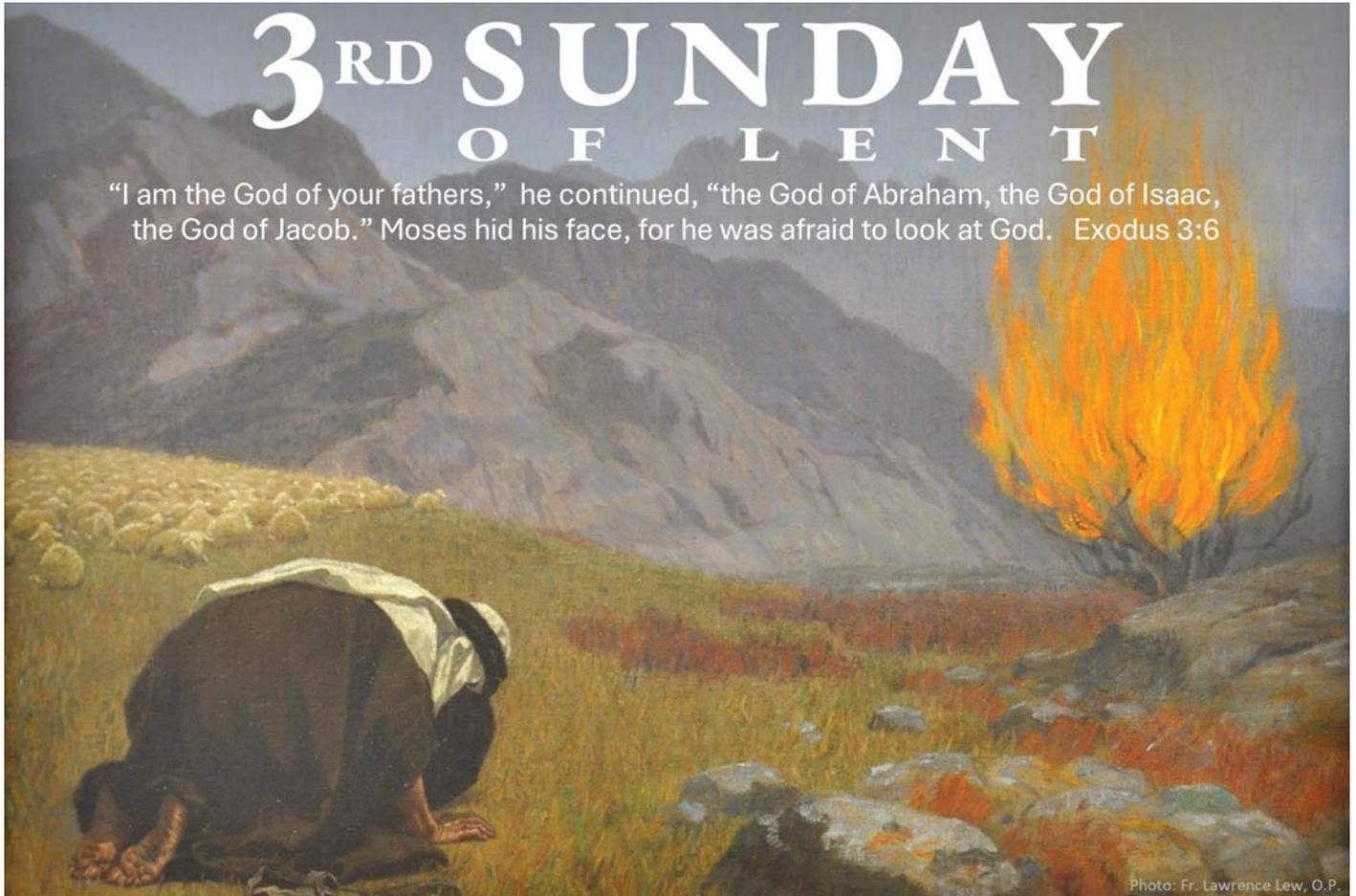


Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the Rectory for information

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 4:00 to 4:45PM ~ also by personal request

Reconciliation Room is handicapped accessible

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact a Priest at least six months in advance

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Our extraordinary ministers are always pleased to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a family member would like to receive Communion, please call the Rectory. If you know of someone from the parish who is in the hospital, please let us know.

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday: 5 PM, in Spanish 7 PM

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM,

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM

RECTORY

70 West Main Street, Westborough, MA 01581

Telephone: 508-366-5502

www.stlukes-parish.org

PARISH CENTER

1 Ruggles Street

508-366-8509



- Saturday, March 19**
 5:00pm **Harvey Hodsdon**
 by Farmer family
- Sunday, March 20**
 7:30am **Katherine Lamothe**
 by Nancy Papp & family
- 9:00am **Jeff Walsh**
 by **Diane & Jack O'Shaughnessy**
- 11:00am **Harvey Hodsdon**
 by John & Suzanne McCann
- 6:30pm **Michael Linn**
 by his family
- Monday, March 21**
 9:00am **Jim McMeniman**
 by Diane & Jack O'Shaughnessy
- Tuesday, March 22**
 9:00am **Quyen Nguyen**
 by his family
- Wednesday, March 23**
 9:00am **Josefa Lech**
 by Rose Montanelli
- Thursday, March 24**
 9:00am **Wanda Klostermann**
 by Rose Montanelli
- Friday, March 25**
 9:00am **Peter E. Flynn**
 by his family
- Saturday, March 26**
 5:00pm **Bill Miller**
 by his daughter
- Sunday, March 27**
 7:30am **Paul Damiani**
 by his family
- 9:00am **Maureen Wolfe**
 by her family
- 11:00am **Nancy McNamara**
 by St. Luke's Parish family

Third Sunday of Lent

**EXPOSITION OF THE
 BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION
 TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 1:00PM
 BENEDICTION AT 1:00PM**

**We invite you to pray the Rosary
 everyday after the 9am weekday Mass
 Monday through Friday**

Please Pray for...

Bill Felice, Chloe Nascimento, Jonathan Tomashefsky,
 Rick Saia, Donna Rene', Carol Aloisi, Mickie Aylward, Kathleen Farrar
 Tuyen Tran, Mary Mahan, James Wright, Evelyn Croteau, Beth Lambert,
 Shirley DePalma, Cheri McGee, Agnes Limberger, Zachary Collins,
 Michelle Weil, Elise Renee, Ann Tisbert, Patrick, Christine, Robert Coutinho,
 Nancy Santory, Haron Beaulieu, Toby Claufon, Becky Rawson, Paul Fallon,
 Connie Rossi, Teresa Putnam, Carmelia Potenti, Elisa Korb, George Beecher,
 Peg Christensen, Leanne McCann, Ellie Carlson, Jane Burke, Hayleigh Scott,
 Kellan Keough, Dorothy Clinton, Sr. Pamela Philbin, Karen Mooney,
 Elizabeth Power, Luis Ferreria, Helen Galica, Erik Olsen, Vicki Foley,
 Brendon Crowley, Richard Kane, Grace Roche, Jack Curtin, Jim Bennett,
 Kirolos Gergis, Carole & Pam Laino, Gregg Merloni, Tome Valadao,
 Maryann Bisco, Susan Garry, Melvin Boucher, T.J. Bautz, Joan Fallon,
 Marie Wilson, David Perry, Lucia Engdahl, John Durnan, Linda Darby,
 Bob Grady, Beverly Taylor, Judy Melfa, Claire Kennedy, Maria Matejko,
 Debbie Giroux, Peter Rose, Kevin & Donna Brennan, Luz Chavez,
 Diane Snow, Dawn Haight, James Thomas, Christina Narensky, Lynn St. Jean,
 Alyssa Bloom, Ann Martin, Michael Berthume, Trisha Suzi, Norman Beland,
 Hailie McLatchey, Barbara Auger, Barbara Barnes, Doris Biedermann,
 Joan Bunnell, Joan Finnerty, Jeanne Amendola, Jack Walker, Daniel Baker
 Rebecca Coax, Robert Trant, Michael McAndless, Michael Del Pozzo,
 Susanne Ollman, Lucy Hamburger, David Carrera, Joel Rivera,
 Pat & John Lusek, Michael Zancewicz, John Lynch, Kristy Cautello,
 Jack Walker, Neil Kenny, Joseph Malzone, Lois Kerbel, Michael Turpin,
 Elise Ollman-Kahle, Patricia Amorelli, Connor Blaney, Debbie Krikler,
 Kim Evans, Austin Tomalewski, Gary Shults, Erin Magrane

**Let us remember to pray for all the men and women and their
 families who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan**

We remember those who have died
 Frances O'Neill (mother of Charley O'Neill)

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Walter Riley, Pastor

Contact: 508-366-5502 (Office)

Fr. Enoch Kyeremateng (Priest in Residence)

e-mail frenoch@stlukes-parish.org

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Melissa Baril Lower, Faith Formation

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Pam Vaccari, Parish Ctr. Secretary

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Linda Underwood, Bookkeeper

e-mail financeoffice@stlukes-parish.org

Beth Salsman, Housekeeper

Lawrence Orlando, Building and Grounds

Patrick Malone, Building and Grounds



EUCCHARIST

The oldest attested name for the Eucharist is the Lord's Supper (1Cor 11:20). It designates the Eucharist from the point of view of which relationship to the person of Jesus as risen Lord. those who participate in the Lord's Supper

are expected to reach out to all human beings and welcome them in solidarity with Jesus the Lord of all.

The second name found in the NT here is the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:35; Acts 2:42). It emphasizes now the Eucharist is a sharing event. those who break bread are expected to offer their lives for others in the way Jesus the Christ did throughout his life but especially in the passion.

Likely the name *eucharist*, which emphasizes the prayer the mention of the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper and the breaking of bread bring out aspects of the Eucharist that are basic in a Christian spirituality. The Lord's Supper draws attention to the way the Eucharist is penetrated through and through by the values and demands flowing from Jesus' risen state. The breaking of bread highlights the quality of sharing and the depth of commitment required of those who participate in the Eucharist.

Beyond these names for Eucharist, the Synoptic Gospels make ample use of liturgical texts that were part of the Lord's supper or the breaking of bread. This practice associated the experience of the early Church with various stories of Jesus, whether as a historical figure, such as in the accounts of the Last Supper; and the miraculous feeding of the large crowds, or as the risen Lord, such as in the story of the disciples of Emmaus. It enabled the readers of the Gospels to see the implications of the NT events for their lives at later periods of history.

From *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

The Partners in Charity Campaign for 2022, *Be the Face of Christ*, begins in our Parish this Sunday. A brief talk on the importance of this annual Diocesan campaign will be presented at each Mass this weekend. Our Parish goal is the same as last year, \$142,000. In 2021, our Parish raised \$131,113 from 309 gifts. The annual campaign of Partners in Charity addresses a number of essential needs throughout our Diocese, including disbursements to Catholic Charities that serves the many poor in our communities, performing numerous works of mercy; the education of seminarians studying for the priesthood in our Diocese; Youth Ministry; Pro-Life activities; African and Spanish Ministries, to name a handful of the ministries that depend upon our generosity to Partners in Charity. May we as a Parish that continues to reach into the our local community with a beautiful outreach continue to respond on a wider scale throughout our Diocese. And, may we be ever mindful of the many blessings God has bestowed us in this lifetime as He calls us to share and *Be the Face of Christ*. Thank you for your support. An updated list of contributions and number of gifts will be present in this weekly column, and my God bless our Parish of St. Luke the Evangelist .

IMPORTANT UPDATE

WORCESTER CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

An important deadline is approaching quickly. The ticket price will increase from \$45 to \$60 on Tuesday March 22. Our parish has had the largest number of men attending the conference every year. If you have been thinking of attending this year's conference get you ticket now. Herman Millet can help you get you ticket. Get in touch with him by email at hjmillet@verizon.net or call his cell at 508.735.8465.



**St. Luke's Parish Family presents...
A GRIEF SERIES**

Offered by the St. Luke's Bereavement Team

Our bereavement series meets every other week for five weeks on Wednesday evenings in the parish center from 7pm – 8:30pm. **First session is Wednesday March 23, 2022.** Sign up to meet in person or choose a virtual (via zoom) group. Please contact Julie Basque our pastoral associate to **pre-register** or if you have questions. (508-366-8509, ext 4 or pastoralassociate@stlukes-parish.org)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday during Lent at 6:30-7:30pm, Saturday 4:00-4:45pm and by personal request. The Reconciliation room is handicapped accessible.

MASS FOR LIFE AT CATHEDRAL

The annual Mass for Life will be celebrated by Bishop Robert J. McManus on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, **Friday, March 25 at 10:00 am** at the Cathedral of St. Paul. All are invited to join students from our Catholic schools who will be our special guests. The Diocese of Worcester's annual Pro-Life Awards will also be presented at this Mass. All are welcome to attend!

(From the Pastor...Continued from page 6)

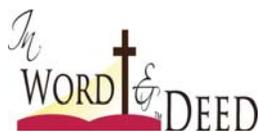
To countless manifestations that settle some difficulty we have. The Burning Bush, the “angel of the Lord,” manifested himself in our moment of great agony or joy, telling us without spoken words (or maybe with them) that we are part of this great, great story of Moses meeting God. A marvelous story of Good Fire extended out over the centuries to include our lives, and do so in the most personal ways.

In this holy season of Lent as we march forward seeking the deeper experience of holiness by turning away from the sin that entraps us, may we take some time to reflect on this most meaningful story of Moses meeting God in the Burning Bush. It’s a true story that goes far beyond an unexpected conversation between man and God. It’s a story that resonates with us still, presenting to us for our spiritual consideration how God’s fire is the Good Fire within, a Pentecostal fire, a fire that brings warmth and cleansing while leaving behind the punishment that may or may not be our due. The Saints in the Communion possessed the fire of the Burning Bush in their lives to the nth degree. They were so on fire for God’s love and presence that they couldn’t wait to be with him one day, which is why it’s so important for us to become more learned about their lives. They fully embraced the words of St Paul, “Life is Christ, death is gain.”

Moses meets God. Sounds almost like a Saturday morning wrestling match, but it isn’t. Moses would lose every time. He wouldn’t stand a chance. But if God’s fire that day on the mountain did happen to be a “wrestling fire” that drew Moses closer toward the curious sight, it was a fight where both were on the same team. A fight that would eventually draw fire from heaven in the form of punishment against the Egyptians for enslaving God’s people, a fire that kept the Israelites warm at night in the desert coolness, and a fire that cleansed and purified hearts that wavered when things got tough, such as having their backs against the Red Sea. The Burning Bush always came through when most needed. May this great story that began the process of leading the Israelites from slavery to freedom do the same for us this Lent, as we move from the slavery of sin to the freedom manifested through God’s love and mercy.

Fr. Riley

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK,
WE CAN MAKE A VISIT ANYTIME WE PASS.
JESUS WILL BE AS HAPPY TO SEE US
AS WE ARE TO SEE HIM.



During recess time at the parish grade school, one young boy was accused of cheating because he did not admit he had been tagged. A few minutes later, he tripped and scraped his knee on the pavement. As the tears welled up in his eyes, one of his companions offered a theological explanation for the painful mishap. “God made you trip because he doesn’t like cheaters!” If this were indeed a doctrine of faith, we’d all be limping for life!

When bad things happen, people like to know why. The people assume that those who died in Siloam or Galilee were the worst of sinners and their sin was the cause of their suffering. Jesus refutes this notion, and reminds them that without reforming, evil will remain with them and they too will perish. But there is hope. Everyone is given another chance to reform, just like the fruitless fig tree. But without real change, there will be no life.

Lent is the time to take advantage of another chance God gives us to reform our lives. God offers everyone the chance to accept His grace, to be forgiven and to grow in holiness. No sin is too great and no person is beyond hope. Just ask, and all that you need will be given to you.

James Gaffney

POPE JOHN PAUL II’S PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. -

Saint Pope John Paul II



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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, 9:30am-1:00pm
Benediction at 1:00PM
and

Friday Evening 5:30-6:30pm
Stations of the Cross will follow Adoration.



DRIVERS NEEDED FOR OUR TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY!

Prior to the Covid pandemic, St. Luke's had an active Transportation Ministry and we would like to start it again, as the need is great. We are looking for drivers who can volunteer their time to help our seniors with doctor's appointments here in Westborough and the surrounding towns including Worcester. It entails picking up the individual, driving them to their appointment and bringing them back to their home.

If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please contact Pamela at the Parish Center at: 508-366-8509, or email her at: religionsedoffice@stlukes-parish.org.

FOREVER YOUNG

GAME DAY 

BINGO! Spend an hour or two with us on Mon., March 28, at 9:45 a.m. at the Parish Center, enjoying a continental breakfast and playing several games of Bingo. Bring all your lucky charms and hope to be a winner! For any weather-related cancellation, call Florence Richards at 508-329-1133 on Monday morning.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 14
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
7:00PM

Good Friday, April 15
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
12:00NOON
PASSION OF LORD
3:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 16
EASTER VIGIL AT 7:30PM

Please note the time for each service.



PLEASE BE AWARE

If you receive an email, text, or any other system of technological communication supposedly from Fr. Riley, *please do not respond to it*. Fr. Riley's name, among the names of other priests, and even the Bishop of Worcester, is being used to attempt to pry and steal gifts cards, money from financial accounts, and other ways using their names as a way of getting parishioners to respond to the communication. Please know that if Fr. Riley wants a gift card or money, he will ask you in person, which means he will never ask you. Any form of communication that looks fishy and odd, *know that it is fishy and odd and delete it. And never, under any circumstances, respond to these tactics that seek to steal finances using the name of any priest*. These scams are attempted mostly against elderly people, but not limited to the elderly by any means. Remember, *don't respond and DELETE IT!!*

From the Pastor

Moses meets God. “How do you do, Lord? I’d like to shake your hand, but I’m afraid a burning bush will torch my hand. And I don’t see any water in this desert to cool off my hand after shaking hands with your burning bush.”

Why did God appear to Moses in the manifestation of a burning bush, a bush that was not consumed by the fire inhabiting it? It’s difficult to pinpoint an answer to this question. We can certainly use some conjecture as to why God would manifest himself in the form of a burning bush. Such as, fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit that will be poured onto Moses as he begins to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt, releasing them from their slavery to Egypt that lasted 430 years. Or, the Unconsumed Fire’s purpose was to attract Moses, the just and holy man (like St. Joseph) so God could draw Moses into his intimate, small circle of friends, joining the likes of Abraham and Noah before him. Or, maybe God’s manifestation of an unconsumed fire was symbolic of lighting an enlightened fire under Pharaoh, King of Egypt, to “Let my people go. Let them go into the desert to worship me so I may further lead them to the land flowing with milk and honey.” God can be a tricky God at times in ways that work for our benefit, telling Pharaoh through Moses the Israelites would be leaving the King for a few days of worship, when God had in mind a permanent departure.

There are many other possibilities for the human mind that enjoys imagining why God did exactly what he did while Moses was busy in the area tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. Why a burning bush, and unconsumed at that! Fire, in this case a burning bush, is often symbolic in Scripture and how God will use it as either warmth, punishment, anointing, or cleansing. I can picture the Lord Jesus sitting around a warm fire on the cool evening when he and his disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane just before he was handed over by the cold Judas. Feeling the warmth of the fire while waiting for the end of his life to begin allowed Jesus a few moments of comfort with his chosen band, even though he had other things on his mind. This, of course, was prior to his chosen band falling asleep on him after he left the warm fire, walking a short distance away to pray, knowing his end was fast arriving. I suspect there wasn’t much warmth in Jesus’ heart when he returned and found them sleeping on him, which tells us they still didn’t understand what was really happening before them that evening as they were overcome with slumber rather than warmth for the Master. If they knew the Burning Bush was going to be crucified the next day, would they have slumbered on him? Probably yes. Their flesh was weak in the moment, as is ours.

Or, how many times in the Gospels does Jesus refer to “the eternal fire set aside for the devil and his angels.” In this case, there is no good warmth. There is only eternal, hard punishment set aside in the form of fire that burns and aches and hurts and does much more than displaces families from a burning structure. This form of fire will separate families eternally, *and it’s real*, because Jesus said so. The eternal fire that scorches souls and bodies is symbolic for hell. But as to whether hell is real fire, or we’re using symbols that point to a condition, the said condition – eternal separation from God our Creator who

created us for his eternal love – is a real prospect, be it real fire or symbolic fire. Take your pick. The concern here is for people who reject faith in their Creator, and their deeds and actions being consistent with their absence of faith. Faith is a gift, and available to all. We must pray for a heart to be open to the gift of faith. But some of the greatest gifts we have in this world are not wanted by some folks who choose to reject them outright. I don’t make the everlasting judgment here; that belongs to God alone. But, the fires of hell are an infallible teaching in our Catholic faith, and, they can be found explicitly in the words of Jesus in his ministry. Fortunately for Moses, the Burning Bush was not this sort of punishing fire

On the good side of fire, it is an elemental gas invented by some cold cavemen eons ago (probably by accident) who discovered not only the warmth of his good mistake, but also the cleansing power it provides. In nature, this can take on the form of leaves and brush, which I believe is still done in Westborough on cooler, non-windy days. Burning leaves and brush after an autumn of falling leaves is our participation in helping to renew Mother Nature. It would be nice if leaves and brush could somehow be turned into oil and gas for our vehicles to help bring down the price that really hurts poor people more than anyone. Either way, in Scripture, fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which our Confirmation Class will experience firsthand on Sunday, March 27 at St. Paul’s Cathedral. We pray earnestly that our devoted and talented youth at St. Luke’s will “be on fire” for the Lord for the rest of their lives. Possibly even a religious vocation or two will come forth from their being on fire for the Lord.

With regard to Moses and the Burning Bush (Moses meeting God), this sort of fire is what the great leader of Israel will receive as he moves ahead with God’s plan of “letting my people go.” I admire anyone who will stand before a person like Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and declare such demands as “God sent me to tell you to let his people go.” How many would escape the clutches of an angry King after making such a demand? It reminds me of the Magi after their encounter with Herod, telling the mad King that “we come to worship the newborn King of the Jews.” If I’m the King, and some motley looking group of three wise guys came before me asking directions for them to go and worship “a newborn King” who will replace me, I would send them in the direction of the guy in charge of chopping off heads. It’s good to not be a king.

The fire that Moses receives by virtue of being in the holy presence of God is the highest form of fire that will serve the commands and wants of God, enflamed for the betterment of his people Israel, and nowadays enflamed for the betterment of us. Moses is so taken aback by his encounter with the living, eternal God taking a few moments of time to converse with him, the lowly one tending a flock, that he comes away, as he should, with sparks in his eyes and penetrating warmth in his heart. But truth be told, as a priest I’ve heard so many stories from folks where the Burning Bush has revealed himself in some manner, some manifestation, where they knew God was present in the heart of the experience. The Good Fire. From hospital beds to anointings, from assistance when in grave need to a hand on the shoulder.

(Continued on page 4)

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"God is Love" - 1 John 4:8

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