

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE


Saint Mary–Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Francis de Sales Parishes

*Parish Center & Eucharistic Center, 46 Winthrop Street, 617-242-4664, charlestowncatholic.org*

*St. Francis Rectory, 303 Bunker Hill Street, 617-242-0147, info@charlestowncatholic.org*

Charlestown, MA 02129

March 16, 2025



*Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." Luke 9:35*

*Sunday of Lent*

## WELCOME

*To visitors to our parish, to those who have recently moved into the area, and to those who are comfortable and nourished here—**welcome to all!** Please introduce yourself to the priest, and register as a member of our parishes.*

## SAINT MARY - SAINT CATHERINE

Our Mission is to make active disciples of Jesus Christ by creating a welcoming community rich in spirituality and by moving people to share their God-given talents in the service of others and the care of creation.

We are an intentionally inclusive Roman Catholic parish that welcomes all those who make up our diverse community in a way that reflects God's love.

Nourished by the Gospel and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, we strive to build a vibrant parish that strengthens our faith and elevates our worship.

## SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Led by the Holy Spirit, the Parish Family of Saint Francis de Sales seeks to know and celebrate Jesus through Mass, Prayer, Sacrament and Service.

Saint Francis de Sales Church is the oldest consecrated church in New England, the oldest in the city of Boston in continuous service, and the fourth oldest in America, built in 1859, on the top of Bunker Hill. Saint Francis is known affectionately as the Firefighter's church – The statue of St. Florian, patron saint, is located in the bell yard next to the church.

## Mass Schedule

### Daily

8:00 am Masses — Mon through Fri  
St. Catherine Chapel at St. Mary Church  
Saturdays and Holidays at 9 am

### Weekend Masses

#### Saturday

9 am St. Mary- St. Catherine  
4 pm St. Francis de Sales  
4 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

#### Sunday

8 am St. Mary- St. Catherine  
9:30 am St. Francis de Sales  
11 am St. Mary - St. Catherine  
6 pm St. Mary - St. Catherine

### Pastor

Fr. John Sheridan

Finance & Operations Manager  
James Santosuosso

Social Ministry Director  
Thomas J. MacDonald

Confirmation Director  
Cynthia Markey

Director of Music  
John Anthony Volpe

Administrative Assistant  
Dianne Ludy

Hispanic Ministry  
Blanca Paz

## St Francis de Sales

Pastoral Assistant  
Joan C. Rae

Music Director  
Timothy Leahy

Parish Nurse Ministry Director  
Mrs. Maureen Collier, RN BSN

Clergy in Residence  
Fr. Anthony Nweke C.S.S.p.  
Msgr. Felix Ojimba

### Email

info@charlestowncatholic.org

### Web-site

Stfrancischarlestown.org  
Stmarystcatherine.org

## Saint Patrick

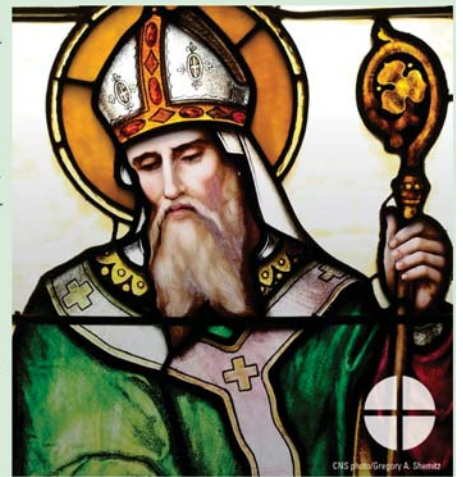
C. 389-461

FEAST DAY: MARCH 17

**T**he patron saint of Ireland, Patrick was born in Roman Britain. He describes his life and ministry, including his work to convert the Irish people, in his short autobiography and testimony, Confessions. Kidnapped at age 16 by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland, his time spent in captivity transformed him spiritually. He was a lonely shepherd for six years before escaping and returning home.

After returning home, his dream of converting the Irish from pagan belief propelled him to priestly studies in Gaul (now France). In about 432, Pope Celestine I consecrated him as a bishop and sent him to Ireland. For nearly 30 years, he preached tirelessly, made countless converts, founded monasteries, and established the primal see at Armagh in modern-day Northern Ireland.

Toward the end of his life, he made a 40-day retreat on Croagh Patrick mountain in present-day County Mayo. That gave rise to the pilgrimages that are made on the mountain to this day. Stories that Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity and drove snakes from the island are unconfirmed legend.



Catholic  
Current

Copyright © 2017, Catholic News Service—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Image: CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, stained-glass window of St. Patrick, St. Aloysius Church, Great Neck, NY

## Instrumentalists and Choir Members Needed !

If you play an instrument and/or can sing and would like to share your talent, please contact John Volpe at javolpay@gmail.com or speak with John after one of the Masses.

All are welcome.



GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOD GIVES US ALL, WE EACH WILLINGLY OFFER OUR  
UNIQUE GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER AND ALL CREATION IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST.

Saint Mary Church  
55 Warren St.  
Saint Catherine of Siena Chapel  
Warren & Soley St.

—  
St. Francis de Sales Church  
313 Bunker Hill St.

Charlestown Catholic Collaborative  
Parish Center  
46 Winthrop St.  
617-242-4664

Social Ministry Office  
49 Vine Street 617-580-8305

Good Shepherd School  
20 Winthrop Street 617-242-8800

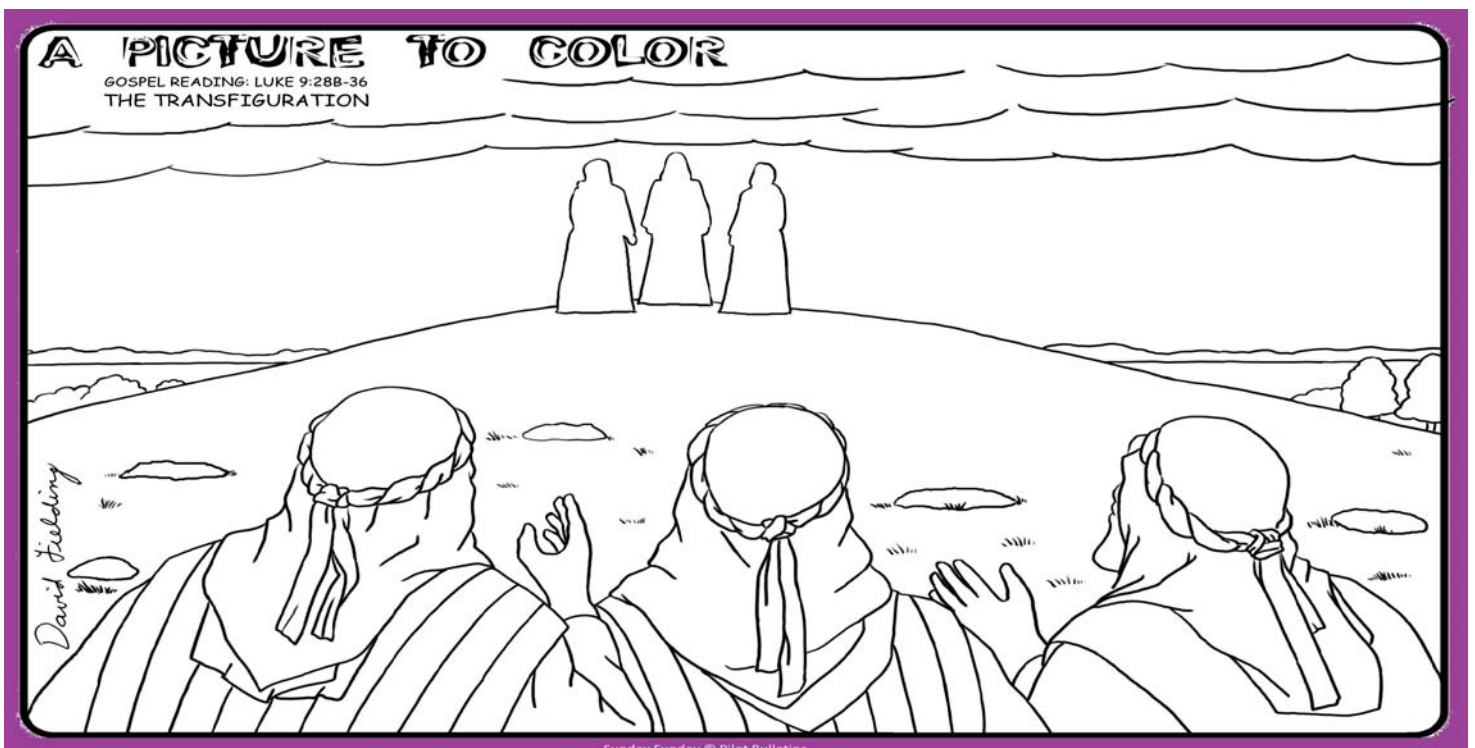
### Handicapped Access

St. Mary's Church is handicapped-accessible on Soley Street.  
St. Catherine's Chapel is handicapped-accessible on Winthrop Street.





Welcome our newest  
members to the Parish  
who were Baptized Sunday,  
March 9th!





A parents' meeting for a new Cub Scout Pack in Charlestown will be held at 46 Winthrop on Tuesday, March 18 at 5 pm.

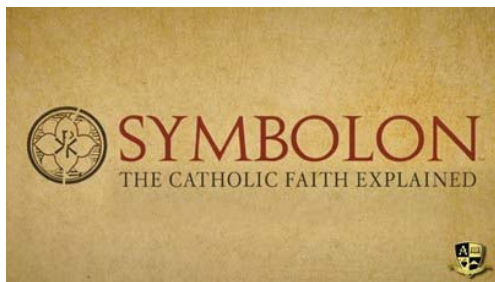
## The 2025 Catholic Appeal Moving Forward in Faith... Together

One of the most meaningful ways that we deepen the impact of our Archdiocese's schools, parishes, and ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. Your partnership and participation carry Christ's love into our communities and spread hope. Many of you may have received a letter from Archbishop Richard Henning requesting your support of the 2025 Catholic Appeal.

The Appeal is a primary means by which we enfold our brothers and sisters into Christ's circle of care. On behalf of Archbishop Henning and all who benefit from your generosity, thank you!

To make an online donation or to learn more about the impact your donation will have, go to [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org).

## We will continue Symbolon for Lent!



Join us **Monday evening, March 31 at 7 pm** at St. Catherine's Chapel. For info, see Fr. John.

## First Reconciliation & Communion

- Congratulations to the girls and boys who celebrated their First Reconciliation at both churches last Saturday. Thanks in a special way to Susan and Brittany who prepared them so well!
- First Communion Masses will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 3 at 10 am at St. Mary's** and **Sunday, May 4 at 9:30 am at St. Francis**. We will announce rehearsals for these celebrations.

## Join us for an hour of prayer



Join us for a **Holy Hour** on Mondays on **March 17 at 5 pm** at St. Francis and **March 31st** at St. Mary's.



**Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on **Fridays at 5:30 pm** during Lent.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, it will be bilingual at St. Mary's.

On March 21st, it will be at St. Francis.



## Parish Town Meetings



Thanks so much to those who stayed after Mass last weekend at St. Francis to talk. Fr. John will host Town Meetings following the Masses this weekend at St. Mary's.

Learn about Collaboration- what we've accomplished and what lies ahead as we grow closer as a family!



### Coming March 25-27 for our Collaborative Lenten Mission: *The Three R's of Lent*

Monday, March 25 at 6:30 pm @ St. Francis  
**Renewal with Fr. Paul Coughlin**  
*Sacrament of Anointing*

Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 pm @ St. Mary's  
**Reconciliation with Fr. Mark Riley**  
*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm @ St. Francis  
**Resurrection with Deacon Joe Nickley**  
Celebration of Mass

## OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS' ASSOCIATION

is pleased to announce that there are a number of \$1,000. scholarships for high school senior boys who will be entering college or preparatory school or technical school this year.

Some of these scholarships will also be awarded to college students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year.

Applications for these scholarships are open to any Charlestown schoolboy who is a senior in high school, has been a resident of Charlestown for 4 years or more; and will be entering college or preparatory school or technical school this year. Applications are available at the Charlestown Catholic Collaborative Parish Center, The Charlestown Public Library and the Boys & Girls Club.



### Easter Flowers:

Names for Easter Flowers must be submitted no later than Monday, April 14 to appear in the Easter Bulletin. Please bring your envelope to Mass or the Parish Center (46 Winthrop, 9-5, M-F), or email [dludy@stmaryscatherine.org](mailto:dludy@stmaryscatherine.org) with the subject "Easter names".



Change up your Friday evenings in Lent with these Catholic Relief Services meatless recipes from all around the world.  
<https://www.csricebowl.org/recipe>

*Rice bowls are at the back of the Church*

*St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena  
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, March 15  
9 am  
4 pm + Lawrence Mahoney

Sunday, March 16  
8 am + Colleen Bowman  
11 am + Elizabeth & Joseph Pelosi  
6 pm + John P & Theresa Rita

Monday, March 17  
8 am

Tuesday, March 18  
8 am

Wednesday, March 19  
8 am

Thursday, March 20  
8 am

Friday, March 21  
8 am

Saturday, March 22  
9 am  
4 pm + Javier de la Riva

Sunday, March 23  
8 am  
11 am  
6 pm

*St. Francis de Sales  
Mass Intentions*

Saturday, March 15  
4 pm + Karen Langan, James Langan;  
Patricia & William Sullivan

Sunday, March 16  
9:30 am + Jack O'Connor

Monday, March 17  
5:00 pm Holy Hour

Friday, March 21  
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 22  
4 pm

Sunday, March 23  
9:30 am

*Reminder: Next Monday, March 24  
the Holy Hour will take place at St Mary  
Church and the Stations of the Cross will be  
held at St. Mary Church on Friday, March 28*

# CHARLESTOWN CATHOLIC

**Mass Intentions**—To book a Mass, please call the parish office at 617.242.4664.

**Sanctuary Candles**— To have a Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of a loved one, please contact the parish office. You may request one for St Francis de Sales, St Mary's Church or the St Catherine of Siena Chapel.

**Sacrament of Baptism**—Baptisms are generally held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St Mary Church. Baptisms at St. Francis de Sales Church are scheduled with Fr. John.

For all requests for Baptisms, please call the Parish Office to start the process. Classes are generally held on the 2nd Saturday at the Parish Office at noon. Parents and Godparents should attend.

**Confessions**— For St. Francis de Sales Parish and St. Mary-St Catherine of Siena Parish. Confessions are held at 3:30 pm on Saturdays before the 4 pm Mass.

**Weddings**— All couples; Please access the wedding form on our website—charlestowncatholic.org— Fr. John will contact couples

after the form is submitted. Always feel free to call the Parish office with any questions.

**Daily Rosary**— St. Catherine of Siena Chapel before the daily Mass. Weekdays, 7:35 am (Mass is at 8 am)

**Saturday Rosary**—If you would like to pray the rosary with us on Saturday mornings via Zoom -Please email Donna at:  
[donna.lecam@gmail.com](mailto:donna.lecam@gmail.com)

**Low Gluten Hosts** -We're happy to provide consecrated low-gluten hosts. Please join the priest communion line and let him know that you need a low-gluten host.

*If you are interested in becoming Catholic or have not yet received Confirmation, if you are homebound and would like to receive the Sacraments, interested in the choir, Religious Education, or volunteering for a ministry...*

Contact us at the Parish office at 617.242.4664  
or email: [info@charlestowncatholic.org](mailto:info@charlestowncatholic.org)

St Mary St Catherine

Weekend of March 9th

Parishioners gave

\$5,070.90

to the weekly collection

\$1,007.00

to the Fuel Collection

\$812.00

to the Ash Wednesday collection



Saint Catherine of  
Siena Chapel  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for

Rachel Barberian

St Francis de Sales

Weekend of March 9th

Parishioners gave

\$1,627.00

to the weekly collection

\$407.00

to Capital Improvement

\$482.00

to the Ash Wednesday collection

St Mary—St Catherine of Siena

3/8

4 pm 87

3/9

8 am 53

11 am 114

6 pm 102

Total 356



Saint Francis de Sales  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for

Richard A. Doherty

St Francis de Sales

3/8

4pm 47

3/9

9:30 am 43

Total 90

St. Mary - St Catherine of Siena  
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Mar 16 Monthly Collection

Apr 13 Parish Easter

Apr. 18 Holy Land/Good Friday

Apr. 27 Monthly



Saint Mary Church  
Sanctuary Lamp  
is lit for

Margaret Costello

St. Francis de Sales  
UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Apr. 6 Capital Improvement

Apr. 18 Holy Land/Good Friday

May 4 Capital Improvement

*We are grateful to you!*

# COMMUNITY NEWS & INFO

## CHARLESTOWN BATH TOWEL DRIVE

**SPONSORED BY: The Charlestown Catholic Collaborative's  
Harvest on Vine Food Pantry, the St Vincent de Paul Society,  
as well as, the Charlestown Community Closet.**



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*Please consider donating **NEW** medium weight BATH TOWELS (one, two, or as many as you are able) to those who might find purchasing them a bit too challenging right now. These towels will be distributed on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **Harvest on Vine food pantry** distribution and will be enjoyed by our Charlestown neighbors in need.*

Drop off Dates: March 10<sup>th</sup> – April 6th

Drop off times: When open, varies by location

Drop off Locations:

St Mary Church- before weekend masses

St. Francis de Sales Church- before weekend masses

St. Mary's Parish Center- 46 Winthrop Street, Weekdays 9-5PM

St. John's Church- 32 Devens St-

Tuesdays 11-5 and Thursdays 5:30-7:30PM

Harvest on Vine Food Pantry- 49 Vine Street- when open

**GOAL- 1,000 TOWELS!**

*Please leave your new BATH TOWELS in bags  
to protect their cleanliness. **THANK YOU!***



### March 16 ~ Second Sunday of Lent

In Luke's account of the Transfiguration, Peter and the disciples were overcome with sleep, but "becoming fully awake, they saw his glory" and recognized this as a special moment with Jesus and exclaimed: "Master, it is good that we are here." Our minds are often asleep or distracted, and so we don't see the various ways that Jesus reveals himself to us. Where is Jesus inviting us to notice his presence? Is it in the scripture we have heard or in the Communion we received? Do we see him in those preparing to be baptized at Easter? Do we recognize him in the face of the homeless person we see each day? Look at those around you and hear what God said, not just to the Apostles, but also to each of us: "This is my chosen Son, listen to Him" – notice him and respond!

### Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

What can I do to gain a Jubilee Indulgence?

Visit a pilgrimage site and participate in the liturgy or spend time in adoration; participate in a mission, some spiritual exercises, or a study in the documents of Vatican II or the Catechism of the Catholic Church; perform spiritual or corporeal works of mercy; or penitential practices in keeping with the spirit of the Jubilee. The normal conditions apply. (In addition to one of the above actions, we must also confess our sins and be detached from all sin, receive the Eucharist in Mass, and pray for the pope's intentions within twenty days of performing the above action.) You can learn more at [bit.ly/JubileeOfHope](https://bit.ly/JubileeOfHope).

### 16 de marzo ~ Segundo Domingo de Cuaresma

En el relato de Lucas de la Transfiguración, Pedro y los discípulos fueron vencidos por el sueño, pero "estando completamente despiertos, vieron su gloria" y reconocieron esto como un momento especial con Jesús y exclamaron: "Maestro, es bueno que estemos aquí". Nuestras mentes a menudo están dormidas o distraídas, por lo que no vemos las diversas formas en que Jesús se nos revela. ¿Dónde nos invita Jesús a notar su presencia? ¿Está en las Escrituras que hemos escuchado o en la Comunión que recibimos? ¿Lo vemos en los que se preparan para ser bautizados en la Pascua? ¿Lo reconocemos en el rostro de la persona sin hogar que vemos todos los días? Mire a los que están a su alrededor y escuche lo que Dios dijo, no solo a los Apóstoles, sino también a cada uno de nosotros: "Este es mi Hijo elegido, escúchenlo", ¡fíjenlo y respondan!

### Año jubilar 2025: Peregrinos de esperanza

¿Qué puedo hacer para obtener una indulgencia del Jubileo?

Para recibir la indulgencia jubilar, visitá un lugar de peregrinación y participá en la liturgia o dedicá tiempo a la adoración. También puedes participar en una misión, en ejercicios espirituales o en el estudio de los documentos del Vaticano II o del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica; realizá obras de misericordia espirituales o corporales; o prácticas penitenciales según el espíritu del Jubileo. Se dan las condiciones normales. (Además de una de las acciones anteriores, también debemos confesar nuestros pecados y estar desapegados de todo pecado, recibir la Eucaristía en Misa y orar por las intenciones del Papa dentro de los veinte días posteriores a la realización de la acción anterior). Puede obtener más información en [bit.ly/JubileeOfHope](https://bit.ly/JubileeOfHope).

### 24 Hours for the Lord (3/28 - 3/29)

#### March 28-29, 2025

The Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of Boston will be hosting 24 Hours for the Lord (24 hours of Adoration) on March 28th to 29th. Each site will have opportunities for silent prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist, as well as other ways of praying. Strengthen your hope in Jesus by sitting with him in prayer. He awaits you!

View the schedule for each pilgrimage site  
<https://bostoncatholic.org/24-hours-for-the-lord>

### Our Lady of the Cape Pilgrim Statue (3/27-3/30)

March 27th - March 30th

St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Notre Dame du Cap (Our Lady of the Cape) from Notre Dame du Cap Shrine in Three-Rivers, Canada, will be visiting the Shrine March 27-30, 2025, as an integral part of "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee 2025.

March 27 8AM-6PM

March 28 8AM-Midnight

March 29 12AM to 6PM

March 30 8AM to Noon followed by Mass and a procession to St. Patrick's in Lowell



**SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH**  
Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**19 de Marzo**

In celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus.





Some pictures  
from el Retiro de  
Cuaresma por  
nuestra Comuni-  
dad Hispana!



## GIVING THINGS UP FOR LENT

BY FR. LARRY RICE

Ask nearly anyone who grew up Catholic what they're doing for Lent, and they'll probably tell you what they're "giving up" for Lent. The notion of giving up some pleasure for the 40 days of Lent is very much in keeping with the penitential character of the season. Of course, the primary pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. All of these are intended to turn our hearts back to God, to purify us, and prepare us for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. One of the things that the whole Church gives up for Lent is the acclamation "Alleluia", before the proclamation of the Gospel.

Of course, when it comes to giving things up for Lent, people often get into trouble by taking on too much, or by working from the wrong motivation. To take on too much is to set oneself up for failure. Several years ago, I decided to give up both meat and chocolate for Lent. Instead of turning my heart back to God, this only served to make me

irritable, as every bacon cheeseburger or peanut butter cup I encountered began to take on demonic proportions. The following year, I decided that perhaps the spiritual discipline of Lent was what I needed to help me lose 10 pounds by Easter. This was obviously the wrong motivation, because it made my Lenten practice all about me. This discipline is supposed to get us out of ourselves, and back to God. Needless to say, by Easter I still had those 10 pounds, and felt like a failure besides. The gift of humility comes from all sorts of interesting places.

So this year, I'm trying a different tack. For Lent, I'm giving up .... complaining. I'm also trying to give up a grudge that I've been quietly carrying around since Christmas. I've also given up elevators, as an occasional reminder of my tendency to take the easy path. Time will tell, but I think I might make it all the way to Easter this year.

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