

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 23, 2017
Sunday of Divine Mercy

4:00 PM
7:30 AM
11:00 AM

Gathering: The Day Of Resurrection BB 175
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice, let us be glad. This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation.

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name*

Preparation We Will Rise Again BB 438

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: Unless A Grain BB 506
Taste And See BB 345

Recessional: Ye Sons And Daughters BB 169

9:00 AM

Gathering: Alleluia, Alleluia, Let The Holy Anthem Rise BB 165

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia! Let the heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sprinkling Rite: *If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in Him, Alleluia, alleluia!*

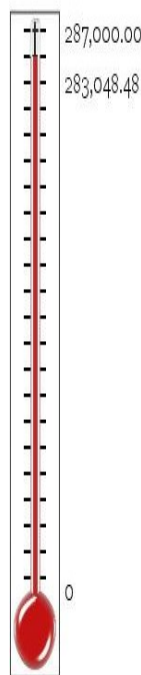
Preparation We Walk By Faith BB 493

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 325

Recessional: River Of Glory BB 649

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠



Thank you for your generosity to our parish. Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

Offertory April 9, 2017 \$8,260.29

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
APRIL 16, 2017
WILL APPEAR IN
NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

Based on a weekly budget need of \$7,000.00, the top amount indicates where the Parish should be as of the current week. The bottom amount indicates the total offertory given so far this year.

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 23, 2017	Fuel
April 30, 2017	No Second Collection
May 7, 2017	Property Management

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/weekly	3% Commitment annually/weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

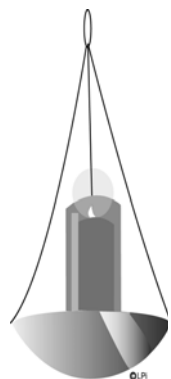


PASCHAL VESPERS and BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Paschal Vespers are sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on the second Sunday of Easter, **April 23**. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection.



First Communion will take place in our parish on the following **Sundays: April 30, May 7, & May 14** at both the 9:00 AM Masses in Newton and the 11:00 AM Masses in Plaistow. Please pray for our First Communicants and their families as they prepare for this joyous celebration!



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **George Moulaison** by his wife, Tess

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **W. Ralph Sampson** by his wife and family



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Religious Education Registration for the 2017-2018 Academic Year for Grades 1 to 10 has begun. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call Joyce Szczapa in the Religious Education Office at 603-382-8324 for more information.

PARISH READERS ARE INVITED TO A NEW SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP

Parish Readers are invited to continue the experience of the Disciples on the Journey program in a weekly group of prayerful reading and reflection on the Sunday Scriptures.

Using our Reader Workbooks, Readers will pray together and share insights about the upcoming Sunday Lectionary Readings. We will meet in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, April 26 at 7:15 PM** following Wednesday evening Liturgy.

Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324 or email Father Albert at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net to let us know you are coming.

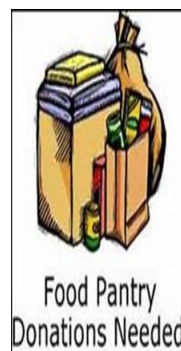


BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 14, 2016**.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, April 23		
4:00 PM	Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
Wednesday, April 26		
9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Plaistow</i>
Thursday, April 27		
8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>
Saturday, April 29		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
Sunday, April 30		
9:00 AM	First Communion	<i>Newton</i>
11:00 AM	First Communion	<i>Plaistow</i>

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 22 ~ Vigil / Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, April 23 ~ Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

7:30 AM People of the Parish
Newton

9:00 AM Michelina & Louis Inzero
(Wedding Anniversary Remembrance)
by the Stanley family
Newton

11:00 AM W. Ralph Sampson by his wife & family
Newton

Monday, April 24 ~ Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr

Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

8:00 AM Intentions of the Lajoie family
Newton

Tuesday, April 25 ~ Mark, Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

8:00 AM Prudence Lajoie Bronicki by the Lajoie family
Plaistow

Wednesday, April 26 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:30 PM Dorothy MacMillan by her family
Plaistow

Thursday, April 27 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, April 28 ~ Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr and Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

No Mass

Saturday, April 29 ~ Catherine of Siena,

Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Acts 6:1-7, Jn 6:16-21 (Day)

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Raymond Lovely by Joyce & Alex Szczapa
Plaistow

Sunday, April 30 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

7:30 AM People of the Parish
Newton

9:00 AM Phyllis Cahill by the Stanley family
Newton

11:00 AM Ronald R. Guilbert by his family
Plaistow



PLEASE HELP US

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, and return your music book and Mass card to their proper place at the end of the pew. Thank you for your cooperation.

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box
on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those
who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 PM.**
We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

The annual Divine Mercy Service will be held on **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM** at Sacred Hearts Church in Bradford, MA. This year's program will include: exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, private and public prayer, recitation of the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM. There will **not** be a Mass during this time. Priests will be available to hear confessions. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Gerald & Ann Marie Johnston at (978)-372-3824.

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Plaistow – Wednesday

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Newton – Thursday

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

MASS FOR THE HEALING OF THOSE AFFECTED BY CHILD ABUSE

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, Bishop Libasci and the Diocesan Safe Environment Council invite all the Catholic faithful to a special Mass on **Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 PM**. Please join them in praying for all those who were abused as children, particularly those abused by people representing the Catholic Church. The Mass will be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Concord, NH. For more information, please contact Joseph Naff at jnaff@rcbm.org or call him at 603-669-3100, ext.110.

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. **RCIA** is intended to serve:

- Those not Baptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those Baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those Baptized Catholic but have not been raised in the Faith.

If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 11:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, May 7, 2017** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Robin Thompson	rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net
Julie Lamere	jlamere@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



SEEKING A UNIQUE HELPER

DO YOU HAVE \$13K - \$17K TO GIVE ST. LUKE'S?

We didn't think so, but you COULD help St. Luke's make \$17,000 or more by volunteering to be a Lead Coordinator for the annual Christmas Craft Fair starting early 2018!

Each year the Christmas Fair proves to be an extremely profitable fund-raiser and friend-raiser for our parish. This would be a wonderful opportunity for YOU to get involved in a meaningful way with the Parish.

The general organization of the Christmas Craft Fair requires a person, or persons, with a friendly manner and the ability to attend to details. The 2017 craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 4 and planning has already begun.

Please give Elaine Kindler a call at 603-819-8691 or email her at stlukenhfair@gmail.com for more information or answers to questions regarding expectations. Thank you!

RELAY FOR LIFE WALK

All are invited to be part of the 20th anniversary of the Greater Derry/Londonderry Relay for Life Walk from **5:00 PM Friday, June 16 until 7:00 AM Saturday, June 17** at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. The event will begin at 6:00 PM with an honorary survivor lap to celebrate cancer survivors and their caregivers.. A reception will immediately follow. Survivors are welcome to join in just for the dinner or stay all night. Please contact either Jackie Leavitt or Bonnie Roberts at 603-498-7683 for more information or www.main.acevents.org to register. Additionally you can check them out on Facebook @GDLRelayForLife.



AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please visit www.AmazonSmile.com today and register to start shopping and donating! For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**



CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS WANTED

If you – or someone you know – would like to be considered as a vendor for this year's St. Luke the Evangelist Christmas Craft Fair, **the first jury period ends on May 6th**. We expect to be oversubscribed, so don't delay! Work must be original and executed by the applicants, and may include food and/or beverages (no baked goods).

1st – please save the date of our Parish Fair: Saturday November 4th, 9 am–3 pm.

2nd – to apply, please contact Craft Fair at: stlukenhfair@gmail.com. Applications are also available at <http://stlukenh.org> under "News and Events." Or, call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Don't miss out on participating in this popular and well-attended event!

4TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC LITERATURE CONFERENCE

Join in a day of engaging and enlightening discussion of literary works from a Catholic perspective on **Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 AM – 4:00PM** at St. Peter's Church, Christ the King Parish in Concord NH. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch. Please visit <http://bit.ly/2jEEuQQ> for more details or to purchase tickets.

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL Retirement Party for Mrs. Judy Ouellette

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to honor the retirement of its beloved first-grade teacher, Mrs. Judy Ouellette in the SJRC School Gym on **Saturday, May 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM**. Her 39 years of teaching will be celebrated with "An Alumni Celebration of Mrs O's Retirement," a special event for current and former students, families, and staff. The afternoon will be filled with reminiscing, refreshments, and a special recognition of Judith Ouellette. Please RSVP via email. Would you like to be part of this momentous occasion, even if you cannot attend? Please email Christine at clatino@sjrcs.com.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

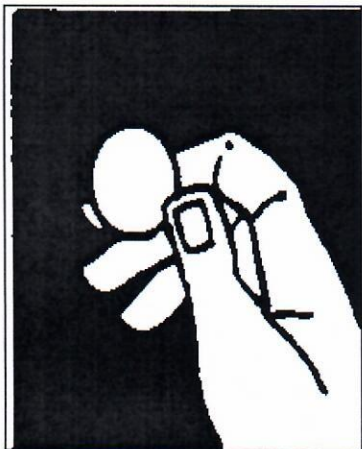
The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.



OUR COMMUNION: OUR PEACE AND OUR PROMISE



In our life together as Catholic Christians, we rejoice in the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but Christ is especially present when we gather for worship. The primary day for gathering is Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. When we come together for Sunday Liturgy, we believe as Catholics that Jesus is “truly present” in the Word, in the Sacrament, in the gathered Assembly and in the person of the priest.

Jesus tells us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. We must avoid an overly literalistic understanding of these words. We do not literally eat flesh or drink blood. Jesus’ command to eat his body and drink his blood can only make sense if we understand the words body and blood as designating the whole person, the real glorified Christ as he exists today in our midst.

How do we approach this great moment? It should be with reverence and with the knowledge that the Lord calls each of us - and all of us as a community - to enter into the mystery of the Lord’s dying and rising. A few things are important about our reception of communion:

The Church calls us to fast from all food and drink at least one hour before receiving. This is more of a spiritual exercise than an ascetical practice. When fasting, our minds, bodies and spirits are better prepared to receive the gifts God gives us.

We all “receive” communion from the hands of another.

“Taking” communion is not part of the Catholic perspective on the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus feeds us... we are needy and unworthy. That feeding comes through the ministry of another of our brothers or sisters. The Bishops of the United States have authorized two methods of receiving communion under the form of the host: on the tongue, or in the hand. One should determine one’s preference, and after a bow of the head in reverence to the sacred Host, respond “Amen,” open the mouth or have a “throne” made with one’s two hands open to receive the Body of the Lord. *The host is then immediately consumed.*

We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but he is especially present when we gather for worship.

How do we approach this great moment?

In the Diocese of Manchester, our Bishop has made it clear that a sign of adoration before receiving the Eucharist is a wonderful way of showing reverence and awe before the Holy Gifts God gives to us. ***A simple bow of the head is indicated in the 2001 General Instruction of the Roman Missal.*** One then receives the Eucharist standing, joined in procession with the whole Assembly gathered - in communion with the Church. Any gestures or actions which detract from this communion are distracting and a serious sign of dis-union with the Assembly gathered and praying together.

Continued on next page...

The assembly is encouraged by the Church to receive from the cup, after having the cup withdrawn for centuries. This in no way detracts from the belief that the “whole Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity” is present in either element of the Eucharist. The Church’s return to a common cup follows the very words of Jesus, “take and eat... take and drink...” and the instructions and admonitions of the great Christian teachers such as Paul of Tarsus and Augustine of Hippo. ***Receiving from the cup means first bowing one’s head in a gesture of adoration, responding “Amen” to the minister, and then drinking from the cup.***

There is no scientific evidence at all of any person “catching something” from this act. In fact, you are more likely to catch cold from sitting next to a family member at home than from sharing in the cup at communion time. ***Receiving under both forms is a fuller and better sign of our participation in the Eucharistic action. Eating and drinking fulfills in the best way possible the commands of the Lord Jesus.***



Receiving from the cup means just that. Self-intinction (dipping the host into the cup yourself) is not part of our observance and breaks the communal sharing of the Eucharist in a serious way. While intinction is used in some places, it is not a preferred way of receiving communion according to our U.S. Bishops, and **NEVER** in the Catholic Church is a communicant allowed to complete this action on his or her own. ***We receive communion as a holy gift from God.*** Our conduct in receiving should show how important we believe that gift to be.

Children who are not of the age to receive (7 by law in the Church) should not receive communion. This means that parents have to keep an eye on little ones - while still respecting their desire to “join the procession.” **DO bring up children in the communion procession**, and have them cross their arms over their chest, and the priest or minister of communion will simply bless them. ***Parents should never “share” communion they have received with their young children.*** While on the surface a pious act, it breaks up the unity supposed by the sharing of the Eucharist. When they have reached the proper age and are prepared, children are admitted to communion for the first time. That day is a highlight in the lives of many a Catholic boy and girl, as well it should be.

To eat Jesus’ body and drink His blood is to enter into a true encounter with the person of Jesus. This is the full meaning of the Eucharist. It is a dynamic meeting with the Risen One. But it is not a solitary experience. We do not come to the Eucharist simply as isolated individuals, but rather as persons who are members of a community, as persons who are the Body of Christ. The Eucharist is not just Jesus with me, but Jesus with us, and all of us with one another. And we are not together hiding from the world: We are Christ’s body in the world God created, every day, every hour of our lives.

In a word, Jesus’ presence is not static: He is not satisfied just to be there. He is there to act dynamically in order to change our lives. In the Eucharist we meet Christ, and are challenged by his presence in the assembly of his people. He is present to make us whole people. He is there to bring harmony and peace into our lives, our families, our country, and our world. He comes to make us experience ourselves as his body in the world.

We receive communion as a holy gift from God....

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Peace Be with You

God our Father,
you sent your Son to give us life,
and to bless us with his peace.
Your Son breathed his Spirit on his disciples
and on us today,
filling us with his mercy and forgiveness,
his peace and his grace.
May we be filled with the Spirit,
and take that Spirit into the world,
filling the world with your peace.
May we be empowered by the Spirit,
so that others may grow in holiness
and love,
and your grace might flow beyond
our grasp.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

April 23, 2017
The Communal Life



Today's Readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31. The Acts of the Apostles describes the strength of the first Christian communities. Today's First Reading shows that those early Christians did *all things in common*. They gathered to learn the teachings of the Apostles. They shared food and other goods. They prayed at the temple and in their homes—together. Life in Christ is best served when it becomes life in Christ together, life in Christ in common with other believers.

On this Second Sunday in the Easter season, our communities of faith should be proclaimed as our sources of life in Christ lived daily. When we suffer, our community prays for us, shares food, and seeks ways to help us. When we share good news, our community proclaims that joy ever

more loudly, and promises continued support and prayer as.

Look around your church community today. Here is your faith fan club. Empowered by the Spirit, renewed by the Risen Christ, and graced by the continued presence of the Father, our communities of faith assemble and share what breaking bread together means. Rediscover the sincerity of heart within your parish. You will find that the peace of Christ, which is proclaimed in the Gospel as Christ's greeting, will rest more deeply when voiced and named clearly and with sincerity. You will find that the faith that is more precious than gold, as St. Peter writes in today's Second Reading, is more powerful when the assembly proclaims it together by word, in action, and for one another. The joy of the resurrection is palpable in the community of faith.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 24

Boldly Speaking God's Word

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, those earliest Christians were empowered by the Spirit over and over again. That empowerment was manifested by speaking the Word of God with boldness. In the light of the Resurrection and its meaning affecting all avenues of one's life, speaking the Word of God boldly can be less daunting. Has Easter helped you to reflect on how boldly you apply the Word of God to your life? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 25

St. Mark, Evangelist

The writer of the oldest Gospel, St. Mark, was not one of the Twelve. His Gospel is the shortest, and was used as a source for both Matthew and Luke. Take some time today to read from this straightforward account of Jesus, perhaps focusing on his presentation of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Consider the succinct ending to the Gospel and his emphasis on faith. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 15–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

Wednesday, April 26

God So Loved the World

The opening lines of today's Gospel capture both Incarnation and redemption. God so loved the world, so loves us, that he gave his Only Begotten Son that we might have eternal life. How much love do we have within us that we show others? We have many chances to show our love in the world, but do not always accept those opportunities. Today can be the day to accept one of those opportunities and demonstrate our love, which is God's love, to the world. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 27

Easter Joy

After six weeks of Lent, we have this wonderful season of Easter, which stretches even longer. However, it seems almost too much to remain joyful and ready to sing alleluia for that long. Pope Francis has reminded us that, as Christians, we have a calling to be joyful. The joy of the Resurrection is found in rediscovering Christ here and now, in one another and in daily experiences. Don't let go of that joy. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2, 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 28

Loaves and Fish and Fragments

The Gospel of the multiplication of the loaves and fish helps us contemplate the many ways that Jesus shares himself with us and feeds us. In this story, Jesus is aware of the crowd's need for physical as well as spiritual nourishment. What do you do with your leftovers? How do you share your loaves, your food, your mealtimes? Sharing Jesus Christ with others is simpler than you might think. We might be more inclined to participate in that sharing if we take time to realize the many ways Christ has shared himself with us. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena

One of the great mystics and spiritual writers of the Church, Catherine of Siena suffered from the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. However, her wounds were not visible to the world until her deathbed. Instead, her joy in the Passion of the Lord was paramount. She sought, with great integrity, to unify a divided Church and to draw all peoples to the Cross as the one means of achieving salvation. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5–2:2; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8–9, 13–14, 17–18; Matthew 11:25–30.*





Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday | April 23, 2017

The Way

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Exaltation, sincerity of heart, indescribable and glorious joy—these are the words that describe the gathering of believers who formed the early Church after Pentecost. Filled with the Spirit, they committed themselves to “The Way” by caring for one another, following the teaching of the apostles, and breaking bread in their homes. Imagine going to Mass every week and being greeted as an old friend or a new one, not worrying whether someone was genuine, and feeling that something

miraculous and new was in the world. Why isn’t it this way in every church? In an age that demands proof, I wonder whether we’ve grown suspicious of faith. In a culture that thinks most people have an angle, I wonder whether we have a hard time believing that someone could love us so much that he would die for us.

Maybe we’ve all become a little more like Thomas in his doubt rather than in his belief. I keep returning to Peter’s words: “Although you have not seen him you love him.”

It takes a remarkable faith to love someone you haven’t seen. But parents do it for their unborn children. We love those who have been taken from us in death. If we can love these, however imperfectly, surely we can love Christ, who died that we might live. Surely we can strive to love all people, known and unknown, because they are God’s children.

In the stories of the early Church, we see the evidence of love—joy and compassion for all. What if every church could do this today? †

It takes a remarkable faith to love someone you have not seen.

A Word From Pope Francis

We are called to abandon the behavior of sin and fix our gaze on what is essential. “A man is more precious for what he is than for what he has” (*Gaudium et spes*, 35). This is the difference between life deformed by sin and life illumined by grace....This love conquers sin and gives the strength to rise and begin again, for through forgiveness the heart is renewed and rejuvenated.

Homily,
Celebration of
Penance,
Vatican Basilica,
March 28, 2014



Sunday Readings

Acts 2:42–47

“All who believed were together and had all things in common.”

1 Peter 1:3–9

“Although you have not seen him you love him.”

John 20:19–31

“These [signs] are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How do you share the joy and compassion of Christ every day?
- Is there anything about the faith you are reluctant to believe without proof?



Daily Resurrections

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What the resurrection of Jesus promises is that things can always

be new again. It's never too late to start over. Nothing is irrevocable. No betrayal is final. No sin is unforgivable. Every form of death can be overcome. There isn't any loss that can't be redeemed. Every day is virgin.

The resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, that we can regain lost

innocence and move beyond bitterness. In a scheme of things where Jesus breathes out forgiveness on those who betray him and God raises bodies from the dead, we can begin to believe that in the end all will be well, including our own lives.

However, the challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can

begin each day afresh. No matter what we've done, our future is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibilities. Resurrection is not just a question of one day, after death, rising from the dead, but it is also about daily rising from the many minigraves within which we so often find ourselves.

We are human and we cannot avoid falling—into depression, bitterness, sin, betrayal, cynicism, and the tiredness that comes with age. Like Jesus, we, too, will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us. Yet our faith in the resurrection invites us precisely to live beyond these. †

Source: *Daybreaks*, © 2004, Liguori Publications

Salvation Is in the Key of Mercy

By James F. Keenan, SJ

Could mercy be the trademark for Catholicism? After all, we share much of our faith with other Christians and with Jews and Muslims. We even share many things that make up our faith with all people of goodwill—everywhere. But the works of mercy—those really are uniquely Catholic.

If we look closely at the Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:25–37), we see that the story of our salvation is completely in the key of mercy. Jesus tells this parable because he has just given the love commandment, and this parable is the answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Are we not thinking the answer to the question will be the man lying wounded along the road? But it is not. The answer is the Samaritan. The *neighbor* is the one who shows mercy.

In the first thousand years of the Church, the parable was primarily preached on two levels: first, what Christ accomplishes for us; then, what we ought to do for others. For instance, Venerable Bede wrote that the injured man who lies outside the gates is Adam, wounded by sin, lying in exile outside the gates of Eden. The priest and the Levite, representing the tradition and the law, are unable to help him. Then along comes Christ, who tends to Adam's wounds, takes him to the inn (Church), gives payment (his life) for Adam's healing, and promises to return (our salvation) and take him to where he dwells (the kingdom of God).

By this understanding, the parable is less a story about how we should treat others than it is the story of what Christ has done for us. We are called to follow the actions of the Good Samaritan because it is a retelling of the entire gospel. In a sense, this parable serves as the foundational explanation of Jesus' commandment to love. †

Source: *Catholic Update*,
© April 2010, Liguori Publications



Risen Lord, you share with me
God's gifts of peace and
forgiveness. Open my heart
to share your peace and
forgiveness with all people.

*Hopeful Meditations for Every Day
in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 24–29

Monday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:23–31 / Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday

St. Mark:
1 Pt 5:5b–14 / Mk 16:15–20

Wednesday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday


Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

St. Catherine of Siena:
Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
April 23, 2017

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