

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, May 7, 2017 Fourth Sunday Of Easter

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

Gathering: The Day Of Resurrection BB 175

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 Hosea BB 664
Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: One Love Released BB 355

I Received The Living God BB 357

Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing

BB 440

9:00 AM

Gathering: Sing To The Mountains BB 530

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 Will Rise Again BB 438

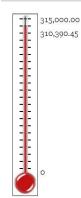
Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: Shepherd Me, O God BB 457

Recessional: Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

BB 166

▼ PARISH TITHING ▼



Thank you for your genorisity 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!

April 30, 2017

Offertory

\$8,185,61

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 Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and (EFT). convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you 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

May 7, 2017 Property Management NH Catholic Charities

Next weekend we will take up our annual collection for **NH Catholic Charities**. Jesus calls us to help our neighbors who are in need. Your gift strengthens families, inspires and educates young parents, relieves the burden of grief and hardship, and bridges the gap for many of our neighbors, moving their lives forward. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ \$100	\$3,000/ <i>\$60</i>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <i>\$75</i>	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <i>\$60</i>	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <i>\$50</i>	\$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

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	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00	
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00	
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00	

Suggested Weekly Contribution

▼ PARISH NEWS



First Communion will take place in our parish on **Sunday, 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!

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.



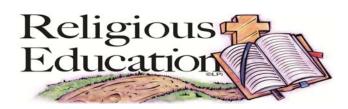
SEEKING A UNIQUE HELPER

Do you have \$13K-\$17K to give to 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 <u>Lead Coordinator</u> for the annual Christmas Craft Fair starting in 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!



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.



Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass.
Thank you!

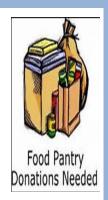


BLESSING OF MOTHERS

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.

₩ WEEKLY CALENDAR №

12:00 PM	Sunday, May 7 Baptism Catechesis	Plaistow
9:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Wednesday, May 10 Eucharistic Adoration Begins Eucharistic Adoration Ends Reader Scripture Share	Plaistow Plaistow Plaistow
8:30 AM 9:00 AM 8:30 PM	Thursday, May 11 Eucharistic Adoration Begins Intercessory Prayer Eucharistic Adoration Ends	Newton Plaistow Newton
3:00 PM	Saturday, May 13 Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow
9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM	Sunday, May 14 First Communion First Communion Confirmation Rehearsal	Newton Plaistow 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 vour 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.

₩ MASS INTENTIONS ₩

Saturday, May 6 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 4:00 PM Doreen Daniels by her family

Sunday, May 7 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

7:30 AM People of the Parish

Newton 9:00 AM Wilma Zink by Helen Baird

Newton

11:00 AM Intentions of Mary Coltin and

Paul & Lucia O'Leary

by Mark and Colleen Hammond

Plaistow

Monday, May 8 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18 8:00 AM

People of the Parish

Newton

Tuesday, May 9 ~ Easter weekday

Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30 8:00 AM People of the Parish

Plaistow

Wednesday, May 10 ~ Damien de Veuster, Priest

Acts 12:24—13:5a; Jn 12:44-50

Jesselyn Driscoll by Ann Marie & Joe Sheehan 6:30 PM

Plaistow

Thursday, May 11 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

8:00 AM Justin Hubbard (Month's Mind)

Newton

Friday, May 12 ~ Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs

and Pancras, Martyr

Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6 No Mass

Saturday, May 13 ~ Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 (Day)

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Lucy, Joe, and Patrick Zakiewicz by Pat Zakiewicz

Plaistow

Sunday, May 14 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

7:30 AM John Rogers by Janice Bettencourt

9:00 AM John Paris by the Kalinowski family

11:00 AM Robert Cooper (Anniversary) by his parents

Plaistow

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST WEBSITE:

http://stlukenh.org

▼ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ▼

ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, AND ALTAR SERVERS

Scheduling for June 3 to August 28

Jeanne Sullivan needs to be notified **by May 9** regarding the Liturgies at which you either wish to serve and/or cannot serve for June, July, and August 2017.

Please contact Jeanne at 382-4760 or msul@myfairpoint.net (**not** Jackie Tremblay who would then have to forward it to Jeanne). Thank you!

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.



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week for the Intentions of the Daniels family

The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Leo "Bud" Blinn
(Birthday Remembrance)
by his wife Frances

RCIA

The <u>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</u> 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@stluketheeyangelist.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. 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
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szczapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Robin Thompson
Julie Lamere

Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net csmith@stluketheevangelist.net jszczapa@stluketheevangelist,net jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net mvmbarczak@comcast.net rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net jlamere@stluketheevangelist.net parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese №



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place in our parish on **Sunday**, **May 21 at the 11:00 AM Mass** in Plaistow. Please pray for our youth as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Celebrate God's love and mercy for each other by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are **June 10-11, 2017** in Medway, MA and **September 16-17, 2017** in Medway, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit www.WWMEMA.org.

INTERESTED IN VISITING IRELAND?

Fr. Paul Montminy and Fr. Ray Labrie are leading a tour to Ireland. Information sessions will take place at Immaculate Conception in Nashua on Monday, May 15 at 7:00 PM and at St. Catherine of Siena in Manchester on Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 PM. Please call 603-622-4966 for a brochure or for more information.





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 603-382-8324.

FREE WILL OFFERING May 13-14, 2017

The Trinity Dome is the central and largest dome of the National Shrine. This "Crowning Jewel" will be adorned in mosaic according to the original iconographic scheme of the Great Upper Church and will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with the United States and the National The procession of saints includes, among others, St. Juan Diego (the first canonized male Native American), St. Kateri Tekakwitha (the first canonized female Native American), St. Teresa of Calcutta (an honorary American citizen), St. Francis Cabrini, M.S.C. (the first U.S. citizen to be canonized), St. John Paul II (the first pope to visit the National Shrine), and St. Junípero Serra (declared a saint by Pope Francis at the National Shrine in 2015 for the first canonization ever to take place on American soil). The Nicene Creed will encircle the base of the dome, while the dome's four pendentives will feature the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

During his visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 23, 2015, Pope Francis blessed the preliminary segment of mosaic created for the Trinity Dome containing the words of the beginning and end of the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God." "Amen."

Next week, our parish will participate in a national collection for the Trinity Dome to complete the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, before its 100th anniversary. Also known as America's Catholic Church, the National Shrine has been a century in the making, built by and for the faithful of our great nation in honor of our Blessed Mother, the patroness of the United States. For more information, please visit: www.trinitydome.org.

A free will offering basket will be at the church entrances the weekend of May 13-14 for your contributions.

Please make checks out to Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish - Dome

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 a special event for current and former students, families, and staff. Please RSVP via email. Would you like to be part of this momentous occasion, even if you cannot attend? Please email Christine at clatino@sircs.com.



Friday, August 18, 2017 – 12 Noon – 7:00 pm Saturday, August 19, 2017 – 8:00 am - Noon St. Luke Parish Center 8 Atkinson Depot Rd, Plaistow, NH

> Please plan to volunteer! We need <u>lots</u> of help both days!

SPRING CLEANING?

Start saving your stuff for the Yard Sale: almost anything will be welcome (<u>please</u>, no clothes, electronics, books, broken or dirty items)

BRING YOUR STUFF & HELP US SORT IT: Friday, August 18th – 12 Noon – 7:00 pm

HELP US COLLECT MONEY & BUY SOME STUFF Saturday, August 19th – 8:00 am - 12 Noon

Questions? Call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324

Coming to a Parish Center near you ...

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish 10th Annual Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, November 4, 2017

Set-up Thursday November 2nd & Friday November 3rd

Save the dates & start saving your donations.

As you spring & summer clean, please save:

New or antique items & collectibles for the Silent Auction...

New/as-new items for the Penny Sale...

Please start making Home-made jams, jellies, pickles, as well as knitted & crocheted items, for the Country Store...

We'll start collecting things at the church in October.

Please lend a hand to plan & run the Fair... contact Craft Fair at stlukenhfair@gmail.com with "Fair Help" in the subject line.

Thank you.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Listening for God's Voice

Almighty Father, you who have given us life and love, whose creation we are, whose Son redeemed the world, lead us home.

We are like sheep listening for your voice, turning to you for guidance.

May our hearts find in you an open gate and open arms of love even when we stumble and fall, and hear other voices beckoning.

May your voice be clear and calm, and welcome us home to your Kingdom, Through Christ, your Son and our Shepherd,

who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 7, 2017 The Sheep Gate

Today's Readings: Acts: 2:1, 4a, 36–41; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4; 5, 6; 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10. Sheep know their shepherd's voice, and follow him where he leads them. In looking out for his sheep, the good shepherd, the responsible shepherd leads them through the gate. A flock of sheep instinctively trust those who raise them. Sheep recognize, through sound and smell, even more than sight, their shepherd. The relationship between sheep and shepherd is built on the nurturing the shepherd has provided. The sheep know who provides shelter, food, and protection for them, and who finds them when they are lost.

So it is with Christ. The flock finds its way through him. Not only do we know his voice, not only do we trust him to care for us—he is the gate through whom we know our way. When we are lost, he opens the path for us. Many distractions get in our way of following the Good Shepherd. A number of obstacles cross our path to woo us in another direction. In today's Second Reading, we hear, "For you were going away like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls." By Christ's wounds we have been healed. Whenever we stray, he is there for us, eager for our return to him. Through Christ, we find solace for our self-doubts and security for our missteps. Through Christ, we find the one sure way.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 8

I Know Mine and Mine Know Me

In the middle of the Easter season, it is time to revisit the Creed and the beliefs we state each week. The readings today are a reminder of the Trinity. Acts addresses Baptism in the Holy Spirit, while the Gospel stresses knowing both the Father and the Son. As we profess, so do we live. We know and believe in the Triune Godhead who knows and loves us. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–8; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3, 4; John 10:11–18.*

Tuesday, May 9Being Christian

The last line of today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that Antioch is where "the disciples were first called 'Christians." What an astounding fact. Do you ever think about what that meant in the first century? And do you consider the implications of your Baptism, when you were first called Christian? Our identity with Christ, our identity of being Christ for others, is a result of being marked through Baptism. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

Wednesday, May 10 St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

Risking his health, as well as his ties to family, friends, and the Church, Fr. Damien de Veuster committed himself to caring for Hawaii's lepers on the island of Molokai. He treated each leper with dignity, building houses for them, as well as a hospital, a church, and a school. While much of the world dismissed anyone who had set foot on the island, Fr. Damien embraced each person as Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 12:24—13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; John 12:44–50.*

Thursday, May 11 Words and Actions

We are used to the saying "Actions speak louder than words." In today's Scripture passages, we are reminded that both are necessary. It is not enough for Jesus to simply wash his disciples' feet; Jesus must repeatedly exhort his disciples that receiving him is the same as receiving the Father. Paul, in the First Reading, reminds the first Christian Jews that what they have been waiting for has already happened. Salvation is present and active in the world. *Today's Readings: Acts:13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25, 27; John 13:16–20.*

Friday, May 12

Witnesses of the Way, the Truth, and the Life

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus say, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Members of the early Church took seriously the need to proclaim that, for in the Second Reading, Paul tells of how those who followed Jesus "are now his witnesses." We too are challenged to proclaim the Good News. As witnesses to the redeeming Christ in our lives, we are to proclaim that truth in all that we are. Each action, gesture, word, and motive of a Christian should be proclaiming the Resurrection to others. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11am; John 14:1–6.*

Saturday, May 13

Take Delight in the Lord

Gather the family for an Easter Time activity. Engage the children in acting out your favorite Gospel Resurrection account. Adults and children can all have a role not just in the play but in writing the script. Or perhaps the family would like to see how many words they can make from the letters in the word Resurrection. Ask the family to try to see if every phrase they utter today is worthy of adding an alleluia to it. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1*, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14.







Bringing Home the Word +

Fourth Sunday of Easter | May 7, 2017

We May Safely Graze

By Mary Katharine Deeley

n a trip to Ireland years ago, our family was enchanted by the confident, stoic, long-haired Irish sheep. When I was still mastering the art of driving on the left side of the road, we rounded a narrow corner and came face to face with one of the sheep, who looked at us as if to say, "And you are...?" Clearly the sheep owned the road, whereas we were mere interlopers. I pulled to the side and waited for the sheep to cross or move,

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

1 Peter 2:20b-25

"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps."

John 10:1-10

"Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."

which it did eventually, giving us the eye all the while.

When we think of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, I think we have a different picture of sheep—docile, helpless, and eager to follow anyone who feeds them. I prefer to think of us as Irish sheep who go where they want and look with suspicion at anything out of the ordinary. These sheep don't follow any stranger's voice; they just stare him or her down and go on their way.

On familiar ground with the one who cares for them, they gather into pastures abundant with grass. When they finish grazing in one place, a gate opens to bring them to another, and to another after that.

"I am the gate," Jesus says. He is the one who leads us further into his life.

In Celtic spirituality, the open gate is an invitation to the spiritual life. Let us be good Irish sheep who are not afraid to wander far and wide, knowing our shepherd will come to take us home.

Let us follow our shepherd with confidence. He is not just the gatekeeper but the gate itself, promising far more than we can ever find in this world. †

"I am the gate," Jesus says.

A Word From Pope Francis

We need salvation, but at the same time we are afraid of it....When the Lord comes to save us, we must give everything...he commands; and we fear this. [Men want] to be in control...to be their own masters. [In this way] salvation does not come, the consolation of the Spirit does not reach us. [Hypocrisy is] not allowing the Spirit to change our hearts with his salvation. The freedom that the Spirit gives us is also a sort of slavery, a slavery to the Lord that makes

us free. It is another kind of liberty.

—Homily, June 10, 2013



- Do you follow your shepherd with confidence? In what situations do you hesitate?
- What are the gates in your life Jesus has opened for you?
 Are you confident enough to go through them?



How Are We Called?

By Kathleen M. Basi

Pope Francis energizes us and at the same time challenges us to

actively participate in our faith. Most of us would rather practice our faith within the safety of a little box, where the Christian call is as clear-cut as the rosary, lighting a candle, and attending Sunday Mass. Pope Francis asks us to move beyond the walls of the Church and be a true witness to Christ in the world.

Like many faithful people, I always thought most issues had simple answers; however, after having a child with a disability, I realized that when the Christian call intersects with the real world, things become more complex—life isn't that simple.

Consider the prolife cause, perhaps the most clear-cut issue imaginable. It's not enough to believe that children with disabilities have a right to be born. Their needs impose a heavy financial burden on their families: therapies, surgeries, orthotics, and so on. We have a moral obligation to support life at all stages, even when it requires societal intervention that runs counter to ideals about self-sufficiency.

Pope Francis has called us to confront complex questions and seek thorough

answers. Using this thorough process, how can we address some of the questions we face?

As followers of Christ, we will always find ourselves being called upon to respond to situations that may not be as clear-cut as they appear. Although the path may be demanding, we have the support of the Church and Christ as an example of how to do the hard work. Pope Francis has called us to labor together. Faith grows only when it is stretched. A call of faith is not a static request; to follow Christ means to get up, pick up your cross, and act. True discipleship—though difficult—is worthwhile, because it draws us closer to the heart of Christ, the source of our calling. †

Source: *Liguorian*, © May 2014, Liguori Publications

An Invitation to Stillness

By Michelle Francl-Donnay

hen it comes to my prayer life, it sometimes feels as if I live in a Broadway musical. God, I want to cry, are you here? Can you hear me? I'm having a hard time hearing you over all the noise. But to be still, to know God deeply and intimately in the depths of silence, is not just for the saints and mystics—it's for everyone.

Here are three simple ways to practice being still with God.

Steal time. Contemplation is sometimes called the art of stealing time. How much time can you steal from your ordinary routine without missing it? Find

three to five minutes a day, gather a bit of silence around you and remind yourself that God is present. Ask God for the grace to know him in the depths of your heart. When your time is up, express your gratitude.

Sneak out. Follow Jesus' example and sneak out of the house before dawn to pray. Be aware of God's overarching presence, of his immensity and intimate love. The entire universe cannot contain him, yet he knows each of us by name. Don't strain to hear—wait. Stretch into God's creation for five minutes. Then give thanks to God for the works of his hands and go back inside.

Breathe. Christian tradition has long drawn connections between breathing and prayer. Just as the physical act of breathing puts flesh on our bones, so God takes flesh in us in prayer. Take a

well-known prayer like the Our Father and, with each breath, mentally say one word or short phrase of the prayer. Let each word sink in, consider its meaning, and breathe until you're ready to move on. †

Source: *Catholic Update*, © May 2015, Liguori Publications



Holy Spirit, fall afresh on me so I may listen to the voice of the true Shepherd. Thank you for giving us the Holy Father as Jesus' vicar on earth, the Church's shepherd to lead us toward you. Help me listen to you through Jesus. Amen.

— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 8-13

Mon. Easter Weekday:

Acts 11:1-18 / Jn 10:11-18

Tue. Easter Weekday:

Acts 11:19-26 / Jn 10:22-30

Wed. Easter Weekday:

Acts 12:24—13:5a / Jn 12:44-50

Thu. Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:13-25 / Jn 13:16-20

Fri. Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:26-33 / Jn 14:1-6

Sat. Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:44-52 / Jn 14:7-14



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