

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, May 21, 2017
Sixth Sunday Of Easter**

**4:00 PM
7:30 AM**

Gathering: All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name
BB 724

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 Prayer Of St. Francis BB 522

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: You Are Mine BB 455
Ubi Caritas BB 478

Recessional: Sing With All The Saints In Glory
BB 609

9:00 AM

Gathering: Alleluia, Sing To Jesus BB 757

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!***

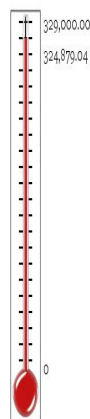
Preparation We Have Been Told BB 497

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: You Are Mine BB 455

Recessional: Sing A New Song BB 543

✠ 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!

May 14, 2017

Offertory \$7,191.22

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

May 21, 2017	Fuel
May 25, 2017	Ascension
May 28, 2017	Catholic Communications
June 4, 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 ✠



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place in our parish on this weekend 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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

On **Thursday, May 25**, we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, which is a holy day of obligation. Liturgies will be celebrated at **6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 24 in Plaistow** and at **8:00 AM on Thursday, May 25 in Newton**.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Next week, our second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. Fifty percent of funds collected remains in our Diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message!



**PENTECOST IS UPON US!
SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT!**

**WEAR RED TO CHURCH
ON THE WEEKEND OF
JUNE 3 & 4**

**Pentecost Evening Prayer and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Holy Angels Church
Sunday, June 4 at 6:00 PM**

**Pentecost Dessert Reception follows
at 6:30 PM in the parish hall**

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 register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 29**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 30.



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 Lead Coordinator for the annual Christmas Craft Fair starting in early 2018!

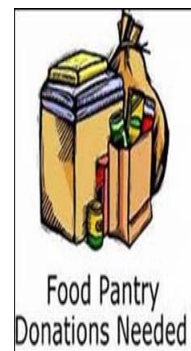
Each year the Christmas Fair proves to be an extremely profitable fund-raiser and friend-raiser for our parish. This would be a wonderful opportunity for YOU to get involved in a meaningful way with the Parish.

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 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Sunday, May 21</u>		
4:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	Plaistow
<u>Tuesday, May 23</u>		
6:30 PM	VBS Planning Meeting	Plaistow
<u>Wednesday, May 24</u>		
9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	Plaistow
6:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	Plaistow
7:15 PM	NO Reader Scripture Share	Plaistow
<u>Thursday, May 25</u>		
8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	Newton
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	Plaistow
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	Newton
<u>Saturday, May 27</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow

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.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

**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 20 ~ Vigil / Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

4:00 PM Richard Morin by Geraldine Morin
Plaistow

Sunday, May 21 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

7:30 AM Mary Ann Mayo by Jim & Mary Anne Downs
Newton

9:00 AM Kenny Jenkins by the Statezni & Jenkins families
Newton

11:00 AM Confirmation
Plaistow

Monday, May 22 ~ Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, May 23 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 24 ~ Vigil / Ascension

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (Vigil)

6:30 PM Jesselyn Driscoll by Verna Carbone
Plaistow

Thursday, May 25 ~ The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

8:00 AM Rosemarie Ferrandi (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, May 26 ~ Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

No Mass

Saturday, May 27 ~ Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28 (Day)

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a (Vigil)

4:00 PM Shirley Sawtell by Verna Carbone
Plaistow

Sunday, May 28 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a

7:30 AM Jason Suleski by Susan and Mick Swanwick
Newton

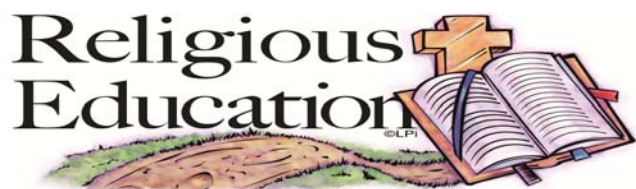
9:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

11:00 AM Veronica Webster (9th Anniversary)
by her daughters
Plaistow



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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



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.

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.

GLUTEN INTOLERANT?

The Parish now provides an option for receiving Holy Communion for anyone suffering from gluten intolerance or celiac disease. We have obtained special altar breads that are fully certified for use at Mass by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and laboratory tested to contain only .001% gluten. Please see the Pastor or the Sacristan before Mass about receiving Communion using one of these special hosts.

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

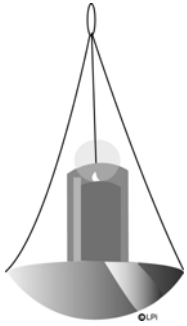
The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 11:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, June 4, 2017** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according 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** ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Kenny Jenkins
by the Statezni & Jenkins Families

The Vigil Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Joseph D. Gibbs, Sr.
by his wife and family

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 on **Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 PM**. Please call 603-622-4966 for a brochure or for more information.

**GREATER HAMPSTEAD-PLAISTOW
CROP HUNGER WALK 2017**

**ST LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY
ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER**

**Host Church: Hampstead Congregational Church,
61 Main Street, Hampstead NH**

DATE: Sunday, May 21, 2017

TIME: 12:30 PM registration, 1:00 PM walk starts

OPTION of 1mile, 3miles, 5K walk

Help support St Luke's Food Pantry. Please consider taking a sponsor sheet and walking with us. If you can't walk, consider sponsoring a walker. This is the only fundraiser that our pantry does every year to help service between 145-170 local families every month.

Donations can be left at the Parish Office or placed in the collection basket marked "CROP WALK." You can also mail them to St Luke's Food Pantry, 8 Atkinson Depot Road, Plaistow, NH 03865. **All donations and envelopes should be turned in by Sunday, May 21, although we can accept donations through Sunday, June 4.** Online donations may be made at www.cropwalk.org - click on Donate to Walker, State of NH, select "Greater Hampstead Plaistow Crop Walk," and select a walker to sponsor.

We need your help. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Contact Joe or Marie Farren at 603-275-6641 or leave a message at 603-819-4949 for more information or if you have any questions.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLAISTOW COUNCIL
22ND ANNUAL ST JUDE OPEN- June 3rd**



The Knights of Columbus are running their 22nd Annual St Jude Open on June 3rd at 7:30 AM at Apple Hill Golf Course in East Kingston. This event raises net proceeds in the range of **\$15,000** every year which is donated to 1-3 families in our parish that are experiencing financial and/or health issues. **WE NEED YOU!**

For \$100/player you get:

- 18 holes golf with cart
- Steak tip lunch
- Gifts/raffles/contests
- Sponsor a hole or have your employer sponsor a hole for \$100
- Come volunteer the day of the tournament

Please be part of a wonderful local community event with the goal of helping others in need. Contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or dans49@comcast.net to register and/or get a brochure to be a sponsor.

**OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The St Jude Council invites the men of the parish to join the Knights of Columbus. We are united in our service to our local communities and our Parish of St Luke's. Our activities are varied and we have a great group of Knights and their families who enjoy being part of our Knights' family. We only ask our Brother Knights to do what they can within the comfort of their own schedule. Our activities include support of St. Luke's Food Pantry, St Jude Golf Open to help families in need, Tootsie Roll Drive to help the mentally and physically challenged, Pro-Life events, Financial Support of three Seminarians, Boy Scouting, Blood Drives, Fundraising Meals, Golf League, Family BBQ, Christmas Party, and many more activities. If you would like more information on the Knights, please contact any of the Knights listed below:

Jeff Lozeau 661-8285
Dan Sullivan 378-0458
Peter Richards 382-4315
Gene Gaudreau 382-4342
Mike Rosa 458-5520
Gordie Lewis 382-8424
Jack Ronan 580-2444
Don Richardson 362-4520
Bernie Gosselin 642-401
Greg Taillon 382-7239
Ed Wencis 362-5783
Joe Klimaszewski 362-9962
Roland Richardson 443-848-3328
Bob Nadeau 617-335-1257



Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates who celebrate the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 am. Please also pray for their families and Sponsors, and for all who teach and support our young people.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Patron Saint</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Abigail Bloom	Kateri Tekakwitha	Gretchen Dacey-Zavalianos
Olivia Boucher	Elizabeth of Hungary	Henry O'Meara
Sophia Boucher	Monica of Hippo	Marie O'Meara
Anthony Caporizzo	George the Martyr	Joseph Thompson
Nicole Castellano	Maria Goretti	Nicole McCabe
Courtney Collibee	Theresa of Avila	Paula Colpitts
Emylee Cote	Catherine of Bologna	Kathleen Coco
Erica Delaney	Catherine of Siena	James A. Manti
Joseph Doherty	Sebastian the Martyr	Elizabeth Harnois
Michaela Edwards	Claire of Assisi	Anne Edwards Parker
Jake Jacques	Ambrose of Milan	Jillian Jacques
Katiana Kable	Anne, Mother of Mary	Joseph Kable
Matthew Keane	Matthew the Evangelist	Rebecca Keane
Samantha Keeley	Mary, Mother of God	Steven Bussell
Audrey Latino	Jude the Apostle	Frances Gagne
Nicole Maille	Teresa of Calcutta	Kimberly Goucher
Amanda McVey	Monica of Hippo	Stacey Anne Sykes
Erin O'Neill	Christina the Martyr	Karen McGovern
Julia Quaratiello	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Grace Quaratiello
Adrianna Quirk	Teresa of Calcutta	Elizabeth Kjaer
Catherine Urick	Lucy of Syracuse	Gayle Wencis

CONFIRMATION 411



The ways of celebrating Confirmation vary as much as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some people are Confirmed at the same time they are Baptized. Others celebrate Confirmation in their adolescence after many months of preparation. Baptized members of other Christian communities who want to join the Catholic Church in full communion are Confirmed after their Profession of Faith.

This flexibility can be the source of some confusion. The many occasions for Confirmation can obscure its meaning. Surely Confirmation seals a Candidate with the gift of the Holy Spirit. But the disparities in age, preparation and modes of the celebration of the Sacrament continue to be widespread.

In the early Church, all Baptisms were celebrated in the presence of the Bishop at the principal church of the community, the cathedral. After Baptism, it was the Bishop himself who “sealed” the newly Baptized with Sacred Chrism and prayed for the invocation of the Holy Spirit. When Christian communities grew and spread farther and farther from the cathedral church, Bishops could no longer gather all those to be Baptized in one place. By the fifth century, the presbyters and deacons of smaller Christian communities were allowed to Baptize, but the Bishop alone “confirmed” these Baptisms at a subsequent time.

At the same time, the Church was also welcoming those who had fallen into various heresies and problems back in to the communion of the Church. To ritualize their return to the embrace of the Christian faithful, the Church borrowed two ritual gestures from the Baptismal rite: the imposition of hands and the anointing with chrism. From these beginnings, the Sacrament of Confirmation has come down to us as three separate families of rituals: the first is that of **Initiation**: the Eastern Churches confirm (Chrismate) everyone as soon as they are Baptized, even infants. In the Latin west, it has become the practice to confirm adults and children of catechetical age at Baptism. The second is that of **Maturity**: The Latin Church has long delayed the Confirmation of Catholics Baptized as infants. In the United States, where individual Dioceses set the age for Confirmation, the age of for conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation ranges anywhere from seven to eighteen. Finally, the Sacrament of Confirmation is used to note **Transference**: when a previously Baptized person wishes to join the Catholic Church in full communion, they make a Profession of Faith and are then Confirmed.

Although the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation changes slightly within each use, the overall purpose of the Sacrament is to celebrate the Gifts of Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and of the Candidate. Those Gifts help us all to be more faithful witnesses to the Risen Christ.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Spirit of Grace and Truth

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the Universe,
for you have graced us with your presence
and given us your Spirit, the Spirit
of Truth.
May we, who have been baptized by water
and the Spirit,
receive your grace and truth,
respond with hope,
and bless others with the light of your love.
And may we, anointed by the power of the
Holy Spirit,
find the peace, healing, strength, and faith
you give
as we accept your gifts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 21, 2017 No Longer Orphans

Today's Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he will not abandon them as orphans. For three years, they had followed him and trusted that he would show them the Truth. Each of the Twelve relied on Jesus to guide them, to demonstrate the best way to be good, loving, religious people. Now he tells them to demonstrate their love by keeping the Commandments. And he assures them that he will send the Advocate. He tells them that they need to trust what they already know, for within that *knowing*, they will have all that is necessary to live in God's love. Jesus was trying to teach the Apostles the hard lesson that they need to trust what they have learned

and what they have been living. We, too, need to take that lesson to heart.

Today's Gospel is a bit about handing on what is in the family. Every family has a talent, an attitude, or a particular trait that appears here and there throughout the family tree. Jesus tells us today that he lives on in each of us through the Spirit. Jesus lives on through a holy attitude, a helping hand, a grateful smile. Guided by his commandments, we have the Spirit coursing through our spiritual veins, and we recognize him in others, and sometimes in ourselves. He remains with us, lives through us, and we share the life of God in those familiar and holy ways of the Spirit inherited through the sacraments.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 22

Our Advocate

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus refers to the Advocate as the Spirit of truth. In the First Reading, Lydia who is persistent and faithful, becomes an advocate for her household and her friends, who eventually are baptized by Paul. For whom are you an advocate? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a, 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 23

Good Works, Belief, and Baptism

The account of Paul and Silas in prison, in today's First Reading, shows the strength and faith of the disciples as they spread the Good News. Because of the imprisoned evangelizers' faith, the jailer is converted. He then cares for them and is baptized, along with his household. How does your life draw others to the faith? *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 24

Dying and Rising

Too often, we accept Christ's dying and rising without recognizing its profound impact on our lives. How have you allowed your faith to transform you? Have you struggled and made it through a dark time and found new life with God's help? In this sixth week of Easter, the depth of the meaning of the Paschal Mystery may just be dawning on you. Hang on to the realization of that new meaning and allow transformation to occur. *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 25

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." We often wonder how we are to fulfill this command from Jesus. In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis speaks of slowing down and

accompanying people, allowing them to share their concerns. We can respond to others by humbly and gently sharing God's Word. *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week in Easter

In today's reading from Acts and the Gospel, the way Jesus' disciples acted before he died and rose is contrasted with how they lived afterwards. In the Gospel, Jesus' words puzzle the Apostles. In Acts, however, Paul proceeds to spread the Good News with no qualms. He knows that his faith is based in Jesus Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

Friday, May 26

St. Philip Neri, Priest

Holiness and humor mark the life of Philip Neri (1515–1595), who frequently used lighthearted methods to emphasize a more spiritual, deeper meaning. He turned Carnival into a pilgrimage to the seven churches, complete with music, laughter, and dancing. The focus on the churches attracted so many, and the movement around the city of Rome was so exhausting, that there was no time for sinful partying. How can you use humor for holiness' sake? *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

Saturday, May 27

Complete Confidence in God

"If you ask anything of the Father in my name he will give it to you," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. We often take that as an endorsement to ask for just about anything. Our prayer, however, must truly be in Jesus' name. That implies less control on every small desire we have, and more asking for the joy promised. How that joy is delivered is up to God. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*





Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter | May 21, 2017

Powered by the Spirit

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Taken by the story of the saint and the old movie (not so old then) *The Song of Bernadette*, I took Bernadette as my confirmation name. The sister who taught us in fifth grade had talked about saints as people we wanted to be like—our heroes who were constantly before God in heaven and looking out for us on earth. She also talked about the Holy Spirit and the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, which we had to memorize.

Sunday Readings

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

“With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.”

1 Peter 3:15–18

“For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.”

John 14:15–21

“But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you.”

I confess I was far more interested in getting the new name and curious about the light slap on the cheek from the bishop that would herald the arrival of the aforementioned Holy Spirit.

We’re a couple of weeks from the celebration of Pentecost, and today’s readings begin to tell us how the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus’ followers to do miraculous things and helped them witness to their faith in Christ.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate, which is a legal term, but it can also mean spokesperson, comforter, or intercessor.

One thing is certain: The Spirit witnesses to the truth of Christ, who lives in us and with us. The Holy Spirit guides and teaches the Church, which is the body of Christ. In confirmation, the grace of the Spirit becomes fully manifested in us, enabling us to tell the world that we follow Jesus and have become new people in Christ.

The saints who were our heroes and our namesakes allowed the Spirit of God to change their lives so they were more like Jesus. No wonder we were invited to be like them.

Maybe it’s time to work on that again. †

Christ lives in us.

A Word From Pope Francis

The new things which God gives to our lives are lasting, not only in the future, when we will be with him, but today as well. God is even now making all things new; the Holy Spirit is truly transforming us, and through us he also wants to transform the world in which we live. Let us open the doors to the Spirit, let ourselves be guided by him, and allow God’s constant help to make us new men and women, inspired by the love of God which the Holy Spirit bestows on us!

—Homily, Mass
and conferral
of the sacrament
of confirmation,
April 28, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What saints do you look to as role models for living your life?
- How do you let the Holy Spirit move, and live, and grow through you?



An Adequate Response

By Fr. Donald Willard, CSsR

The Holy Spirit is often described as the bond of love that exists between

the Father and the Son. The mutual self-donational and self-communicative intimate bond between the Father and the Son is so perfect that perfect love exists between the two. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is consubstantial with the Father and the Son. This divine mystery occurs because the goodness of God must be communicated and shared.

But the Most Holy Trinity must

communicate its goodness. This explains the existence of the whole of creation. It affords a place for the Most Holy Trinity to communicate its goodness and share God's divine life. We are then called into existence out of pure love. Humanity has the capacity to receive and enter into a relationship with divine love. We also have the capacity to communicate, share, and love the Most Holy Trinity.

This is the call to holiness and wholeness in the life of every person, the call to respond to the love of God poured into our hearts. There is only one proper response to a God who would give

himself up to us and even die for us—the gift of self. We give ourselves in loving service to the one who gave himself in loving service to us.

Holiness is setting oneself aside for the purposes of God. We realize our lives are not our own. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. And so we are bound to God and offer ourselves in service to our sisters and brothers, who are also the children of God. This service in love brings us wholeness at both a personal and communal level. †

Source: *Liguorian*,
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Responding to the Presence of Spirit

By John Gresham

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* lists several ways in which we come to know the Holy Spirit within the Church (CCC 688). First on the list is sacred Scripture, which the Spirit inspires. We grow in our relationship to the Spirit by hearing and responding to the voice of the Spirit speaking through the biblical writings.

After Scripture, the *Catechism* lists Tradition and the magisterium as places we encounter the Holy Spirit. Reading the writings of the early Church fathers and studying the first Church councils, I was struck by the beauty and wisdom in their writings. I began to recognize

Tradition as the Holy Spirit leading us into a deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ.

After Scripture, Tradition, and the magisterium, the *Catechism* mentions the sacramental liturgy as a place we come to know the Holy Spirit. The work of the Spirit prepares us for the liturgy. In silence and prayer before Mass, we can receive this work of the Spirit, who will inspire faith and desire in our hearts.

Next, the Spirit recalls the events and meaning of Christ's coming. Through the readings, homily, and prayers of the Mass, Christ is manifested to us by the Holy Spirit as we recall what he has done for us. The Spirit makes that event present. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

As we receive Christ in holy

Communion, that same Spirit transforms us into members of the body of Christ. Responding to the energy of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy, we are transformed to become more like Christ in his love for God and others. †

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



Holy Spirit, who is the love of the Father and the Son given to me at my baptism and confirmation, help me to activate the gifts and life given to me by hearing your voice more attentively, embracing it more lovingly and persevering in it more generously. Amen.


— Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 22–27

Mon. Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:11–15 / Jn 15:26–16:4a
Tue. Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:22–34 / Jn 16:5–11
Wed. Easter Weekday:
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

Thu. Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:1–8 / Jn 16:16–20
Fri. St. Philip Neri:
Acts 18:9–18 / Jn 16:20–23
Sat. Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:23–28 / Jn 16:23b–28

Bringing Home
the Word 
May 21, 2017

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