



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, June 25, 2017
Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
7:30 AM
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,
O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Preparation In Every Age BB 465

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: The Body Of Christ (Choir)
Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 506

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
BB 380

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. 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!

JUNE 18, 2017 COLLECTION WILL BE INCLUDED IN NEXT WEEKS BULLETIN

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.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

St. Luke the Evangelist now has its own Facebook Page. If you are on Facebook, please stop by **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaiستow** or www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners and friends to do the same.



Find us on:
facebook.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 25, 2017	Works of Holy Father (Peter's Pence)
July 2, 2017	Property Management
July 9, 2017	No Second Collection
July 16, 2017	Fuel
July 23, 2017	Parish to Parish Support
July 30, 2017	No Second Collection

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 ✠



DON'T MISS THE FUN!

There is still time to register for Vacation Bible School which will take place at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Plaistow on **June 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2017**. Come and explore the mighty love of God!!! Call Joyce at the parish office (382-8324, ext. 303) for more information.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

12:00 NOON on Tuesday, June 27 is the deadline for announcements to be included in the **July 9, 2017** bulletin.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, July 3 AND Tuesday, July 4**. The Parish Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, July 5.



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN



The Pregnancy Care Center is a Christ-centered ministry offering life-affirming services designed to empower women and men to make educated decisions about unexpected pregnancy, abstinence, as well as recover from post-abortion trauma. These services are free and confidential. Please pick up a bottle and fill it with coins, bills or checks (made payable to PPC). **Bottles must be returned by the weekend of July 8 & 9.**

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Our second collection this week is for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence), which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.



Please be generous.

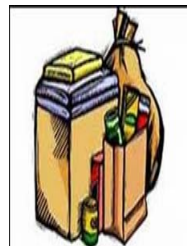
AMAZON SMILE DONATION

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.amazonmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

**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
Donations Needed

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 SUMMER...

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

<u>Sunday, June 25</u>		
4:00 PM	Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Monday, June 26</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Tuesday, June 27</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Wednesday, June 28</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	<i>Plaistow</i>
9:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Plaistow</i>
7:00 PM	Reader Scripture Share	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Thursday, June 29</u>		
8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>
<u>Friday, June 30</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	<i>Plaistow</i>
<u>Saturday, July 1</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Saturday, June 24 ~ Vigil / 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

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

Sunday, June 25~ 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

7:30 AM Rosemarie Ferrandi by Joyce & Alex Szczapa
Newton

9:00 AM Betty Nappi (Birthday Remembrance)
by the Stanley family
Newton

11:00 AM Edwin Sadowski
by the 8th Grade Religious Education Class
Plaistow

Monday, June 26 ~ Weekday

Gn 12:1-9; Mt 7:1-5

8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Tuesday, June 27 ~ Cyril of Alexandria,

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Gn 13:2, 5-18; Mt 7:6, 12-14

8:00 AM Thanksgiving for Blessing Received
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 28 ~ Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

Gn 15: 1-12, 17-18; Mt 7:15-20

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Thursday, June 29 ~ Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16: 13-19

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, June 30 ~ The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22; Mt 8:1-4

No Mass

Saturday, July 1 ~ Junipero Serra, Priest

Gn 18:1-15; Mt 8:5-17 (Day)

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Nancy Raymond by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, July 2~ 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

7:30 AM Lisa (Stefanski) Sliviak
by her mother, Ann Stefanski
Newton

9:00 AM Ralph Santangelo by his family
Newton

11:00 AM Frank Kelcourse (Birthday Remembrance)
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

**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.

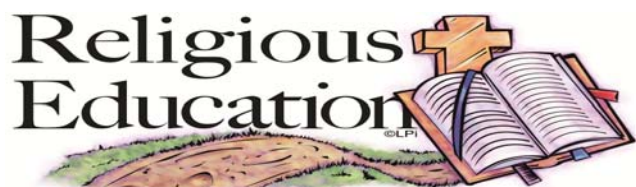
Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, July 19 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 ✧



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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, July 9, 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
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 for the
**Intentions of
the Daniels family**

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.



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.



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

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

**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

CREMATION & THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes, and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

GRIEF SUPPORT, AGES 6-14

Merrimack Valley Hospice knows that kids grieve in their own unique way, so they've designed a free Grief Support Program for children and teens ages 6-15 and their caregivers where they can: Enjoy some pizza. Connect with Peers. Express creativity. Learn about bereavement. Create a lasting memory. **The group meets the 3rd Thursday of the month beginning September 21, 2017 through June 21, 2018 from 5:30PM - 7:30PM.** Registration is required. Please call 978-552-4510 to register or for more information.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples who have a good marriage and want to make it better. Most couples are busy with work and family. It seems every moment of the day is planned and there's never enough time to get everything done. When was the last time you had a weekend alone together? Consider planning a weekend away to renew your marriage relationship during the weekend of **September 16-17, 2017** at Betania II Spiritual retreat Center in Medway, MA. Contact 1-800-710-WWME to register or visit www.wwmema.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

“Philippians: Life in Christ”

Based on the DVD Series created by *The Augustine Institute*

Join us for six weeks as we journey with Dr. Tim Gray in the **Lectio** series on “*Philippians: Life in Christ.*”

The Augustine Institute states: “In this session, Dr. Tim Gray combines insight and practical guidance using the *lectio divina* disciplines to make the scriptures come alive in “*Philippians: Life in Christ.*”

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning July 5, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning July 6, in the Church Hall, please cut the form off at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or at the parish office no later than Monday, July 3. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or at 382-8324.

Both groups will meet in the Church Hall

A reminder will be in the bulletin the weekend before we begin.

“PHILIPPIANS: Life in Christ”

Name _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Cell Phone _____

Wed., July 5 – August 9, at 7 p.m. ____

Thurs., July 6 – August 10, at 1:30 p.m. ____

✠ PARISH INFORMATION ✠

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.



Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office 382-8324.

PARISH POLICY ON GROUPS SEEKING SUPPORT

After consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, and taking into account the many groups that desire the community's support, it has been decided that the following policy be put into place:

- 1. Only Parish groups will be allowed to solicit support for their projects in our churches. This includes groups from within the Parish itself or groups which are based within our Parish.
- 2. Groups from outside the Parish community will be allowed to solicit support from the community *only by rare exception* and with the express consent of the Pastor and Parish Council.
- 3. No group of any kind will be allowed to solicit until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Publicity and other materials may be displayed in the entrances of the Church, but no actual solicitation may occur until after Mass has ended.
- 4. No more than one (1) Parish group may seek the support of the community at one time. This means that there are not to be multiple support efforts on the same weekend.

The Pastor will be the sole arbitrator of scheduling for Parish groups seeking community support. Parish groups should contact the Parish Office to determine availability for scheduling any support event. Thank you for your continuing support for the mission of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish.

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, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A Parish Pastoral Council is primarily charged to assist in the development of mission-focused Parishes rather than programmatic or finance-driven ones. Pastoral Councils attempt to place at the heart of the Parish a consciousness of a zeal for the mission of Jesus Christ. When there is a clear awareness of this "larger vision" proposed by the Gospel and taught by the Church, a Parish finds itself energized by a sense of mission and directed to matters that foster the mission of the Parish, grounded in the mission of Christ (Diocese of Manchester, *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*, 2002). Our Parish Pastoral Council provides invaluable advice to the Pastor and Staff of the Parish through consultation, dialogue and ongoing learning. Our Council generally meets on a monthly basis to discuss Parish life and issues and to assess our ongoing mission as a Catholic community. The members of the Parish Council can be accessed through the Parish Office, or by email at **parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net**.

Robert Harb, Chairperson
Cathy Smith

Sr. Doris Ducharme, pm

Sr. Marilyn Pelletier, pm

Mark Hammond

Mary Massi

Lisa Collibee

Courtney Collibee

Michael Tremblay

Elaine Kindler

Jack Brotz

Jeffrey Lozeau

Janice Bettencourt

Fr. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB



Bringing Home the Word

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time | June 25, 2017

Fear Not

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the wake of natural disasters that devastate homes and lives or senseless and often intentional violence that leaves carnage behind, I am so deeply grateful that thousands of people find the grace to run toward the disaster to help, open hearts to pray and wallets to give, or just lend a shoulder to lean on or a hand to rebuild. The world calls it the triumph of the human spirit. I am convinced that it is grace abounding that God might work through each

person who builds, plants, comforts, and even dies so that others might live.

“Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body...” said Jesus, who knew that the path of discipleship would not be easy for those who followed him. He also knew that fear is a door through which evil can tempt believers to put their faith and trust in anything that can give them security, wealth, and power and, thus, turn them away from God. Those who kill others wantonly for the sake of their own gain, who oppress peoples to increase power, and who take advantage of misfortune to increase their wealth have succumbed to evil already.

“Do not be afraid,” Jesus says, because God watches over us and, in the words of the psalmist, “is our champion.” The people who run into burning buildings, spend precious time to help rebuild disaster areas and look for survivors, who stand in defiance of tyranny, oppression, and injustice, and who give what they have to help others know this and live it out already.

**“Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body...”
said Jesus who knew that the path of discipleship would not be easy for those who followed him.**

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 20:10–13

“Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the evildoers!”

Romans 5:12–15

“If by that one person’s transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God...overflow for the many.”

Matthew 10:26–33

“And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.”

A Word From Pope Francis

We have prayed under [Mary’s] leadership that she guide us to be ever more united to her Son, Jesus. We have brought her our joys and our suffering, our hopes and our struggles; we have invoked her by the beautiful title of *Salus Populi Romani*, imploring her [to] grant us health. Yes, because Mary gives us health, she is our health. Jesus Christ... has brought us salvation, granting us the grace and the joy of being children of God, to truly call him by the name of Father. Mary is the mother, and a mother worries... about the health of her children... What does this mean?...I think above all of three things: she helps us grow, to confront life, to be free.”

— Recital of the Holy Rosary, May 4, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What am I struggling with and need to give over to Christ?
- How can I increase my trust in God this week?



Hang on to Hope When the World Is Falling Apart

By Jim and Susan Vogt

It's easy for us to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of the many natural disasters, blatant injustices, and tragedies in our world. Are earthquakes, tsunamis, and droughts worse than in the past, or are we more aware of them due to modern communication? Injustices tear at our hearts the most since they are under human control. Terrorism, corrupt governments, oil spills, and pollution are mammoth problems of human making. Tragedies like death, divorce, or lingering illness can devastate us. We wonder: *How can God allow such suffering when we try so valiantly to do what's right and pray so hard?*

What's a Christian to do? Wallow in grief or guilt? Rail at God? Give up? Grieving is OK—for a time. Even getting angry at God is human. The psalms are good examples of people pouring out their grief and anger to God. (See Psalms 22, 55, 57, 88, 94, and 102 for a start.) Don't worry. God can handle our strong feelings.

There comes a time, however, when we have to pick ourselves up and carry on. The following actions have helped us when we've felt overwhelmed or powerless in the face of problems and evils in our world.

Cultivate gratitude: Let go of your anger through consciously noting one thing each day for which you're grateful.

Pray in solidarity: Of course we pray, both personally and at Mass, for people affected by natural disasters and tragedies of all kinds. Adding our bodies to our prayers through fasting or other sacrifices can build solidarity with the victims and reinforce our prayers.

Take action: Actions put feet on prayer. Can you take one action step in the direction of change? This won't solve the whole problem, but it gets you out of the starting gate.

Take on only what you can handle: When making even one step feels like too much, you might be right. Sometimes we're truly maxed out and have to trust others and God to take care of the current problem.

Think bigger: Those of us with just the ordinary demands on our time, energy, and money have the responsibility to think bigger. Consider that your strong emotion of anger or helplessness may be a call from God to act. You've been touched and moved.

Make a friend: Whatever problem is touching your heart, there are probably others who have organized a group that's already working on it. Besides, having others to work with is motivating and can refine bigger ideas.

What's Faith Got to Do with It? Jesus spent his life showing us how to deal with adversity and how to be neighbors. And what did it get him? Crucified! If we're following Jesus, we shouldn't expect comfort and ease;

rather, we need to spend ourselves for others and learn to love better. Jim McGinnis, a modern-day prophet and cofounder of the Institute for Peace and Justice, wrote: "In the face of escalating violence, let us escalate love."

QUESTIONS ONE?TIONS? REFLECTION

- What events in our world have angered you, upset you or made you feel powerless?
- How well have you done your part as a citizen of the world?
- What one action step will you take this month to work toward positive change where change is needed?

Source: *Everyday Catholic*,
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PRAYER

Lord, your gift of unselfish love redeems the world. Remove the selfishness from my heart so I can love and care for others.

From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time: Weeks 11–22*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 26–July 1

Mon. Weekday:
Gn 12:1–9 / Mt 7:1–5


Tue. Weekday:
Gn 13:2, 5–18 / Mt 7:6, 12–14

Wed. St. Irenaeus:
Gn 15:1–12, 17–18 / Mt 7:15–20

Thur. Sts. Peter and Paul:
Acts 12:1–11 / 2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19

Fri. Weekday:
Gn 17:1, 9–10, 15–22 / Mt 8:1–4

Sat. Weekday:
Gn 8:1–15 / Mt 8:5–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
June 25, 2017

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