

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 3, 2017
Twenty-Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM

8:00 AM

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table BB 311

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O
Lord; slow to anger, rich in
kindness, loving and forgiving are
you.*

Preparation: Blest Are They BB 627

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

Communion: Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 506
Seed, Scattered And Sown BB 353

Recessional: Lift High The Cross BB 713

10:00 AM

Gathering: Canticle Of The Sun BB 424

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

*O God, I seek you. My soul thirsts
for you. Your love is finer than life.*

Preparation: We Are Many Parts BB 580
Servant Song BB 374

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

Communion: We Remember BB 494

Recessional: Lead Me, Lord BB 628



Find us on:
facebook

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plastow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners and friends to do the same.

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

✠ 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!

August 27, 2017

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Offertory | \$6,178.89 |
| Missionary Co-op | \$1,623.00 |

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

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| September 3, 2017 | Property Management |
| September 10, 2017 | Catholic University |
| September 17, 2017 | Fuel |
| September 24, 2017 | Priest Retirement Fund |



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

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 ✠



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, September 4.**

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Joyce at jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net.

RIP SR. ANN HOWARD, SND

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Ann Howard, SND who passed from this life to God on August 20. Sister Ann was 94 when she died. She worked in Plaistow at the former Holy Angels Parish as Religious Education director in the 1970's, and lived at the Convent when the Sisters of Notre Dame were working in the Parish. Her funeral was held at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur House in Ipswich, MA on Friday, August 25. May her soul, and souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

FOR OUR RECORDS

Please help us to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the parish office by email at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603-382-8324. New registration forms are available in the back of both churches and on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

AMAZON SMILE DONATION

Our Parish received a donation of **\$43.61** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2017. Thank you to all who use AmazonSmile!

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.

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

Our new weekend Mass schedule is:

4:00 PM Saturday – Plaistow (Cantor)

8:00 AM Sunday – Newton (Cantor)

10:00 AM Sunday – Plaistow (Contemporary Group)

Please note that our daily Liturgy schedule will remain the same.

BAKE SALE & WALK FOR THE POOR



The St. Vincent de Paul Society's Annual Appeal & Bake Sale will be held on the weekend of **September 23-24, 2017** and their "Walk For The Poor" will be held on **Saturday, September 30, 2017.**

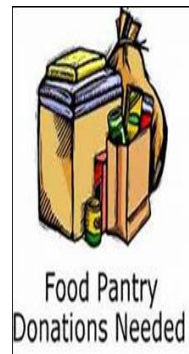
Would you like to participate in this walk? The more the merrier! Please email Susan Mokray at suzigmo@aol.com for details.

You can support the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk For The Poor by donating to this event online at www.svdpusa.net/walk/1565 and simply click on "Donate To This Event."

Donations are tax deductible and donor receipts are available. Please help us assist the poor in our community and "Walk A Mile In Our Shoes."

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 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.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Monday, September 4
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 5

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 6

9:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration Begins *Plaistow*
6:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Ends *Plaistow*
6:30 PM Catechist Mass and Meeting *Plaistow*
7:00 PM Reader Scripture Share *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 7

8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration Begins *Newton*
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, September 9

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 10

10:00 AM Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Religious Education Parent Meeting *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 2 ~ Vigil / 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

4:00 PM Harvin Betournay by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 3 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

8:00 AM Rita & Leon St. Germain by Jeannette & Roger
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
by Jorge Giraldo
Plaistow

Monday, September 4 ~ Weekday

1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, September 5 ~ Teresa of Calcutta, Religious

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37

8:00 AM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 6 ~ Weekday

Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

6:30 PM Madeline Pelletier by George Pelletier
Plaistow

Thursday, September 7 ~ Weekday

Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, September 8 ~ Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

No Mass

Saturday, September 9 ~ Peter Claver, Priest

Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5 (Day)

Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Jesselyn Driscoll by Anna Dubois
Plaistow

Sunday, September 10 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

8:00 AM Jeannette Halko by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
by Jorge Giraldo
Plaistow

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Bakers Wanted!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will be having their annual Appeal/Bake Sale after all of the Masses on the weekend of **September 23/24**. We are seeking talented bakers to drop off their baked goods at any of the Masses you attend and then turn around and purchase some of our other fine pastries!

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, September 20 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

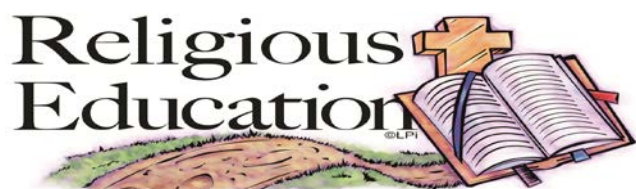
If you seek assistance or need information about the
St. Vincent de Paul Society,
call 603-382-8324 x315.

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

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.

✠ 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, ext. 303 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.

**PARISH READERS
ARE INVITED TO A
SCRIPTURE
SHARING GROUP!**

Parish Readers are invited to a program of prayerful reading and reflection on the Sunday Scriptures. Using our Reader Workbooks, Readers will pray together and share insights about the upcoming Sunday Lectionary Readings. We will meet in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, September 6 at 7:15 PM**, following Wednesday evening Liturgy.

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 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, September 10, 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
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szczapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Julie Lamere
Youth Ministry
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
music@stluketheevangelist.net
jlamere@stluketheevangelist.net
youth@stluketheevangelist.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

❖ **Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese** ❖



Christmas Craft Fair

The biggest money maker at our Christmas Craft Fair is the **Silent Auction** and it needs great items that tempt our visitors to make their bids.

You might be only six-degrees away from knowing someone who could donate an awesome item!

Do you know anyone who works for, owns, or knows someone who works for or owns any of New Hampshire's tourist attractions ... ?

Or ski resorts ... ?

Or sports teams ... ?

Or historical site/museum ... ?

What else can you do to help?

- ❖ Donate a collectible item, or a set of collectibles.
- ❖ Donate an antique or an item now considered kitsch.
- ❖ Donate sports memorabilia and/or tickets for a New Hampshire or New England sports team.
- ❖ Donate tickets to concerts or other entertainment – for adults, children or families.
- ❖ Donate one or more any value scratch Lottery ticket for the Lottery Jar (expiration dates, if any, should be after November 5!)

OR ...Ask people and/or businesses who could donate these type of items.

Items will be collected October 28 & 29.

If you have something to donate to the Silent Auction – or know someone who could be asked – please send a message for Craft Fair to stlukenhfair@gmail.com, or leave a message for Elaine Kindler at the Parish Office (603-382-8324). Thank you!

LITURGICAL MUSIC WORKSHOP

David Haas and Lori True will be at St. Patrick's Parish in Milford, NH on **Friday September 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM** for a concert and on **Saturday September 23 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** as they host a Liturgical Music Workshop. If you are interested in attending either or both events, please email Henry Kopczynskie at saintpatmusic@gmail.com or call him at 603-673-1311.

K OF C – PARISH FUNDRAISER

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus from our parish are hosting an Italian Festival as a fundraiser for our Parish. All net proceeds from the Festival will be donated by the Knights with the hope the monies can be used for the needed roof repairs at our Church.

The Festival will be held on **Saturday, September 30 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM** at the Parish Center. Chef Rudi Ferrandi will make his delicious homemade meatballs and sauce. There will be Italian music with a DJ, an Italian themed treasure chest, gift basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle and a special guest appearance by "Christopher Columbus."



The Knights welcome and appreciate help from our Parish community to make this event a huge success for our Parish. If you would like to donate a gift basket or items that could be used for a gift basket, please call Stephanie Meader at 603-974-2281 or email her at smeader@comcast.net. If you would like to help with set up or meal service, please contact Dave Meader at 603-974-3162.

The Knights ask that you invite friends, family and neighbors to attend the Festival. The meal will include salad, bread, and delicious desserts. Tickets will be sold at upcoming Masses in September as well as at the door. Ticket prices are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, with a maximum amount of \$25 for parents and children. Takeout meals will be available.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Catholic Charities New Hampshire is offering a Bereavement Group at St Anne Church in Hampstead, NH beginning Thursday, September 14, 2017. The group will meet every other week from 1:30 to 3:00 PM to learn about and discuss the grieving process. If you are interested, please contact Judy Nelson at jnelson@nh-cc.org or call 603-893-1971 to register.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or beyond Wedding Anniversary anytime during the year 2017 to attend a Special Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on **October 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. If you're celebrating any of these milestone anniversaries, please contact the Parish Office **by September 22**. We need your first & last names, mailing address, email address, and your special anniversary year. By doing this, you will be registered and will receive an invitation.

BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!!!!



Join us for six weeks of exploration of the Bible that equips you to apply the message of Scripture to your daily life.

Six Weeks with the Bible series, published by *Loyola Press*, is an ideal way to learn important background information on Scripture, experience praying God's Word, and discover the difference the Bible can make in your life today.

Our Fall Bible share groups will be exploring the theme "The Our Father" *Loyola Press* states: "If you want a prayer to help you pray, the best one to begin with is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray—the Our Father. And if you want to deepen your understanding of the Our Father, a slow, careful reading of the prayer and of related Scripture passages is a good way to proceed."

If you are interested in joining a group either on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. beginning September 19; Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 20; or Sunday after the 10 a.m. Mass, beginning September 24, please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Monday, September 11, so that books may be ordered and received on time for the first gathering. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or csmith@stluketheevangelist.net

Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

(There is an \$8 book fee)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

The Our Father (check one)

Tuesdays at 9 a.m. ____
Sept. 19 – Oct. 24

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ____
Sept. 20 – Oct. 25

Sundays after Mass ____
Sept. 24 – Oct. 28

✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH Did you know that **ALL Catholics** are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.



STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

The Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

Main Center

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

www.pccnortheast.org

Helpline: 866-254-4440



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or ddemers@aviconpartners.com.

RETRouvaille...A Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.





Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | September 3, 2017

Countering Our Culture

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When my children were school age, my husband and I decided to use TV commercials as teaching tools. “What are they trying to sell you?” we’d ask. “How are they trying to get you to want it?” Their answers grew as they did: “They want you to think you’ll be cool.” “They’re showing you that rich people have this and hope you want to be like them.”

I often learned as much as our children did, and I like to think that, as a result, we were a little less vulnerable to the techniques.

A consumer culture like ours depends

on making people want more and better than they have. To support it, manufacturers must convince us that this cereal is better than that, this present will fill the void we have experienced, or that our true happiness depends on a brand name, location, degree, or career.

“Do not conform yourselves to this age,” Paul tells us in today’s reading from Romans. This age tells us we cannot be whole until we’ve achieved or obtained certain things.

In reminding us that our goal is not to be formed with this age, St. Paul states, rather, it lies in changing our form with Christ—actually changing our mind and heart so we can know and love God ever more deeply. So rather than conforming, we are better off transforming.

What does changing form look like for the Christian? It looks like loving the enemy, caring for those who have less, gathering at the eucharistic table, being good stewards of resources and, yes, taking up a cross and following Christ—even to death, if necessary.

There we will find our joy and our freedom. †

***Rather than conform,
transform.***

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 20:7–9

You seduced me, O LORD,
and I let myself be seduced;
you were too strong for me,
and you prevailed.

Romans 12:1–2

“This is my Son, my beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 16:21–27

[Jesus said,] “Whoever wishes to
come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.”

A Word From Pope Francis

The devil..., to divert Jesus from the way of the cross, sets before him false messianic hopes: economic well-being...a dramatic and miraculous style...; and lastly, a shortcut to power and dominion, in exchange for an act of adoration to Satan.... Note well how Jesus responds. He does not dialogue with Satan.... Jesus is well aware that there can be no dialogue with Satan, for he is cunning. That is why Jesus...chooses to take refuge in the Word of God and responds with the power of this Word.

—Angelus,
St. Peter’s Square,
March 9, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How are you tempted by the enemy of your soul? Are you ever convinced you aren’t being tempted at all?
- How can you, with God’s help, approach those persons, places, or things that normally tempt you?



Winning and Losing for Jesus

By Fr. William H. Shannon

What is this topsy-turvy world Jesus is talking about, this world in which saving means losing and losing means saving? It sounds like telling the Yankees, “If you win a game, you lose; and if you lose a game, you win.” Say that to a baseball fan in the Bronx and see how far you get! What do Jesus’ words really mean?

Well, for starters, note that Jesus is not making the simple equation: save = lose, and lose = save. He is talking about losing one’s life for the sake of Jesus. This would have made perfectly good sense to the early Church martyrs (like Sts. Stephen, Agnes, and others), as it would for modern martyrs (Archbishop Oscar Romero, Jean Donovan, and others). All gave their lives in witness to their faith. For them, losing their mortal lives for Jesus’ sake meant achieving immortal life with him forever.

What does losing our lives for the sake of Jesus mean for us everyday Catholics who are not called upon to witness to our faith with bloodshed?

Taking on New Life

What does it mean for us to lose our lives in order to save our lives? First we

need to realize that the life we lose is not the same as the life we save. Saint Paul tells us that in Christ we become a new creation. We take on a new life in Christ.

Some years ago, a low-budget movie, *Jesus of Montreal*, was made in Canada. It is about the restaging of a passion play by a group of underemployed actors. In the show, an actor named Daniel takes the part of Jesus. At first he appears to be simply playing a role, but as the play progresses the role begins to turn real. He becomes increasingly identified with Jesus in his daily life.

On one occasion he goes into a studio where a sleazy commercial that demeans women is being made. He protests against it. When the producers try to eject him, he overturns their lights in a rage and walks out. The scene is clearly reminiscent of Jesus and the moneychangers in the temple.

This may be seen as a metaphor of our stories. We put on Christ in baptism. But that is only the beginning. At first it’s as if we are play-acting: doing Christian things, yet without full realization of who we have become. We have to grow into Christ in all aspects of our lives—and that takes time. The Apostle Paul writes:

*The life we lose for Jesus
is not the same as the life we save.*

“We should grow in every way into him who is the head [of the body], Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).

The Price of Discipleship

All this sounds fine until we read our Gospel reading. Reflecting on it jolts us to the core. It tells us that to grow into Christ, to become his disciples, we have to pay a price. Discipleship may bring joy, peace, and a sense of being grounded in Christ. But it inevitably brings the cross, too. Carrying our own cross will surely be part of our lives if we truly want to follow in the footsteps of a crucified Jesus.

The Scriptures make clear that it was necessary for Jesus to suffer. And Jesus makes clear that suffering applies to his disciples as well as to himself. The invitation to be a disciple is a great but costly grace. And it is an invitation. Jesus always respects our freedom.

Each of us needs only to look into our own lives to find our crosses. We can resent or embrace them. Embracing is the mark of a true disciple. †

PRAYER

Lord, your resurrection conquered sin and death. Give me the strength to overcome pride so I can become a humble servant of your love and peace. Amen.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 4–9

Mon. Weekday:
1 Thes 4:13–18 / Lk 4:16–30
Tue. Weekday:
1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 / Lk 4:31–37
Wed. Weekday:
Col 1:1–8 / Lk 4:38–44

Thu. Weekday:
Col 1:9–14 / Lk 5:1–11
Fri. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 /
Mt 1:1–16, 18–23 or 1:18–23
Sat. St. Peter Claver: Col 1:21–23 / Lk 6:1–5