



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 24, 2017  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation We Will Rise Again BB 438

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: Eat This Bread BB 336  
Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 324

Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 440

10:00 AM

Gathering: All The Ends Of The Earth BB 548

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*I will praise your name, my King  
and my God. (2x)*

Preparation Because The Lord Is My Shepherd  
BB 464  
We Will Rise Again BB 438

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: Shepherd Me, O God BB 457

Recessional: Sing A Joyful Song BB 537



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**facebook®**

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to  
[www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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.

## ✠ 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!

September 17, 2017

Offertory	\$6,748.67
Fuel	\$1,904.92

### 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 24, 2017	Priest Retirement Fund
October 1, 2017	Property Management
October 8, 2017	No Second Collection
October 15, 2017	Fuel



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 ✠

### 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](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net).



## *In Loving Memory*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Gabrielle Messier who passed from this life to God on August 3, 2017. Sister served as school counsellor at St. Joseph Elementary School from 1996-2007. She was also the Sacristan at Holy Angels Church in Plaistow until she was assigned to the Presentation Infirmary in Manchester, NH. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



## **They're Here!**

Tickets are available now for the Christmas Craft Fair **Cash Raffle** at the back of the church.

The Cash Raffle needs lots & lots & lots of tickets sold to parishioners and – especially – to people outside the parish.

If we sell all of our tickets, we will raise **\$6,000** for St. Luke's!!!

### **What can you do to help?**

- ❖ When asked to take tickets for others to buy or sell, please say yes.
- ❖ Please buy at least one book of tickets yourself.

If you have any questions or would like to help make our Christmas Craft Fair even more successful, please contact Elaine Kindler at [stlukenhfair@hotmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@hotmail.com) or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Thank you!

### 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.amazonsmile.com](http://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](mailto:suzigmo@aol.com) for details.

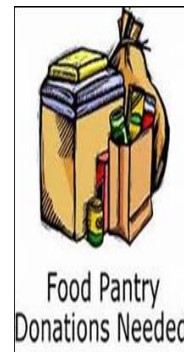
You can support the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk For The Poor by donating to this event online at [www.svdpsa.net/walk/1565](http://www.svdpsa.net/walk/1565) and simply click on "Donate To This Event."

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

### **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 FALL...**

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

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

#### Sunday, September 24

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>
4:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>

#### Tuesday, September 26

9:00 AM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, September 27

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>
7:00 PM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>

#### Thursday, September 28

8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

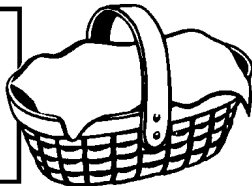
#### Saturday, September 30

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
5:00 PM	Italian Dinner / Festival	<i>Plaistow</i>

#### Sunday, October 1

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>

# 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**. Be sure to purchase some of our 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, October 18 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, September 23 ~ Vigil / 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

*Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a*

4:00 PM	Intentions of Mary Coltin and Paul & Lucia O'Leary by Mark & Colleen Hammond <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, September 24 ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a*

8:00 AM	Maria A. Arasi by Jim & Mary Anne Downs <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel by Jorge Giraldo <i>Plaistow</i>

#### Monday, September 25 ~ Weekday

*Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18*

8:00 AM	Nancy Smith by Cathy Smith <i>Newton</i>
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#### Tuesday, September 26 ~ Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

*Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21*

8:00 AM	Eliza Ian (Month's Mind) <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, September 27 ~ Vincent de Paul, Priest

*Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6*

6:30 PM	Nancy Alger (Birthday Remembrance) by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Thursday, September 28 ~ Wenceslaus, Martyr:

Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

*Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9*

8:00 AM	Frank Szczapa (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) by his family <i>Newton</i>
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#### Friday, September 29 ~ Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

*Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51*

*No Mass*

#### Saturday, September 30 ~ Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

*Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45 (Day)*

*Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM	Phillip and Natalie Gagnon by their daughter <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, October 1 ~ 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32*

8:00 AM	John Murphy (59 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by his daughter, Carole Lueders <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel by Jorge Giraldo <i>Plaistow</i>

#### **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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



### **CONFIRMATION MEETING** **For Parents And Students**

A Parent / Student Confirmation Meeting will be held in the Church **following the 10:00 AM Liturgy on Sunday, October 1.** This meeting is for all parents and students in grades 8, 9, and 10 as well as for Catholic School parents who have students in grades 8, 9, and 10.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 meet in the Parish Hall on **Wednesdays** following the 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](mailto: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, October 1, 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  
Youth Ministry  
Parish Council

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

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

**OUR DIOCESE WILL BE RESTORING THE ORDER IN WHICH THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION ARE CELEBRATED – BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, FIRST EUCHARIST**

Over the next few years, the standard age of Confirmation is going to be third grade throughout the Diocese of Manchester and Confirmation will be celebrated before, not after, First Eucharist. This practice restores Confirmation to its original place. Through this process, the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation return to the logical order in which they were designed to be received: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. It also restores the practice of administering the Sacraments of Christian Initiation to young children as early as possible.

Our parish has a plan for an implementation schedule, as well as a renewed vigor for implementing this change within the context of Lifelong Faith Formation. This will help us to provide an enriching experience of God's love through the sacramental life of the Church.

For more information on the Lifelong Faith Formation and Restored Order of the Sacraments of Initiation, you can visit the RESTORE, RENEW, PROCLAIM page of the diocesan website at [www.catholicnh.org/lifelong](http://www.catholicnh.org/lifelong).

**MEN'S CONFERENCE**

St. Michael Parish in Exeter, NH will be hosting a huge **Men's Conference on Saturday October 21, 2017**. Fr. Marc Montminy, Brian Harrison and Deacon Eric Lambert hope to get upwards of 250 men to show up for this awesome day. Please, grab a couple of friends and ask them to register with you for three very powerful talks by Dr. John Bergsma of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. Breakfast & lunch will be provided and the cost is only \$30 per person. Hurry, seats are filling up quickly. For more information on the day and a link to register, go to [www.stmichaelparish.org](http://www.stmichaelparish.org).



**VIGIL LIGHT**

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **Mary Edwards** requested by Jim Edwards

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

Catholic Charities NH offers a Bereavement Group at St. Anne's Church in Hampstead, NH. The group meets every other week. If you are interested, please contact Judy Nelson at 603-893-1971 to register.

Rockingham VNA & Hospice is offering both an afternoon and evening Bereavement Group from **September 18 through October 24**. These groups are free. For more information, and to register, please call Molly Brewster at 603-772-2981.

**K OF C – PARISH FUNDRAISER**

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus from our parish is 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](mailto: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.

Tickets will be on sale after Masses on the weekend of September 23-24.

**NH NIGHT OF WORSHIP**

Join with churches from around the state on

**Friday, September 29, 2017**

**7:00 to 9:00 PM**

following 10 Days of Prayer for NH's third statewide Night of Worship

St. Marie's Church  
378 Notre Dame Avenue  
Manchester, NH



We welcome into our faith community  
**Ashlyn Gloria O'Beirne**  
who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism.

# **RAISE THE ROOF!**



## **THE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH**

**After all the waiting, after all the planning... it is time to begin raising funds to replace the roofs on our Plaistow campus. Work to replace the roofs on Holy Angels Church, our Parish Center/Preschool, the Parish Office and Convent will cost \$ 150,000.00.**

### ***How can you help?***

**Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to  
*Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.***

# **CAPITAL FUND DRIVE FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH**

**Our Parish has additional needs beyond the roof project on the Plaistow campus. Our Finance Council has identified the following capital projects that also require funding:**

<b>Newton parking lot</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00 (estimated)</b>
<b>Plaistow parking lot</b>	<b>\$ 19,700.00 (estimated)</b>
<b>Newton Church lighting</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00 (estimated)</b>

**Our Diocese has authorized the Parish to sponsor a Capital Campaign drive with a goal of \$ 250,000.00. The projects we envision would be supplemented by additional projects (Plaistow church access ramp, Plaistow office building & convent windows, Newton rectory interior flooring, Newton church & rectory painting) as funds became available.**

## ***Can you help?***

**Making a Capital Campaign commitment is a prudent, practical, and responsible form of stewardship toward our Parish. Nearly everyone believes in a commitment when dealing with personal financial affairs, when arranging for loans or other forms of credit, or when saving for future expenditures. Now is the time to use this same kind of reasoning and common sense to care for our combined interests as a Parish community. It would be impossible to raise enough money through cash donations or “gifts of convenience.” We must rely on everyone to plan a personal three-year goal of generosity and then accomplish it, one step at a time. With the spirit of equal sacrifice—not equal gifts—our commitment relies on the spiritual values of sacrifice and faith.**



# The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

**Gospel Weeklies**  
Pflaum  
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 24, 2017 • God Abounds in Love**  
**Sunday Readings:** Isaiah 55:6-9; Philipians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16

## Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

**Life Question:** When have you received more than you deserve?

**Gospel Question:** What makes a person first or last in our society? In God's eyes?

## LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

### Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

**Gospel Question:** Name three things you would do differently if you were God. How does God's sovereignty compel you to surrender the need to have things your way?

Visit [exploringthesundayreadings.com](http://exploringthesundayreadings.com)

### Visions (Grades 7-8)

**Life Question:** Who always treats you fairly?

**Gospel Question:** How fair or just is giving the last workers hired the same daily pay as the first to be hired?

### Venture (Grades 4-6)

**Life Question:** What is a family activity in which each member does his or her part?

**Gospel Question:** How fair is the way the landowner pays the workers in the vineyard?

### Good News (Grades 2-3)

**Life Question:** When is a time when you got the most?

**Gospel Question:** What do the owner's actions tell us about God's love?

### Promise (Grades K-1)

**Life Question:** Who is in my Church family?

**Gospel Question:** How is God like the owner of the vineyard?

### Seeds (Preschool)

**Life Question:** Who do you meet at Church?

**Gospel Question:** Who do I welcome?

## Family Corner

### About the Gospel

Did your brother or sister ever get allowance when they did not do their chores? It can feel unfair when someone gets paid when they did not work as hard as you did. Jesus says, "The last will be first, and the first will be last." Jesus is generous. He reminds us there is room for everyone in his Church and in Heaven.

Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture.

### In Church

Before Mass starts, watch the people coming into church. See how people move over in their pew to make space for those who arrive a little later. (The last people in the pew get to go to Communion first. The last are now first.) Everyone is welcome in God's Church.

### Question of the Week



When did you want to be first, but did not get to be? Name something positive about being last or putting others first.

### Family Prayer

Dear Jesus, show us how to put others first. Remind us that you love all of us and you want us to love each other.

## Rincón de la Familia

### Acerca del Evangelio

¿Alguna vez recibió tu hermano o hermana su pago semanal cuando no hizo sus tareas? Parece injusto cuando a alguien le pagan y no trabajó tanto como tú. Jesús dice: "Los últimos serán los primeros, y los primeros, los últimos". Jesús es generoso. Nos recuerda que hay lugar para todos en su Iglesia y en el Cielo.

Visita [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

### En la Iglesia

Antes que empiece la misa, mira a la gente entrar a la iglesia. Fíjate cómo la gente se mueve en su asiento para los que llegan un poquito después. (Las últimas personas en el banco van a tomar la Comunión primero. Los últimos ahora son los primeros.) Todos son bienvenidos en la Iglesia de Dios. el programa que van a ver o el primer pedazo del pastel.

### Pregunta de la semana



¿Cuándo quisiste ser primero, pero no llegaste a serlo? Nombra algo positivo sobre ser último o sobre dejar a otros ser primeros.

### Oración en familia

Querido Jesús, muéstranos cómo dejar a otros que sean primeros. Recuérdanos que nos amas a todos y quieres que nos amemos los unos a los otros.



# Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: An Introduction for Families

The faith formation program we are using is called the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*. This program differs from other programs in a number of significant ways that make it an effective way to teach your children.

## 1 Liturgical Catechesis

This is a method of instruction that integrates faith formation lessons with the life of the parish community experienced in the Sunday Eucharist. The content of the program flows from the Sunday Gospel and children learn their faith within the rhythms of the liturgical year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.

## 2 Sunday Mass

The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the parish community. The weekly celebration is more meaningful to young people because they are familiar with the Gospel proclaimed each week. They have studied it in class and wrestled with its meaning. With this program all students and their families hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They learn the Gospel. They love the Gospel. They live the Gospel in their daily lives. They share the Gospel both in the community of faith and, by their witness and loving service of others, with every person they meet.

## 3 Family Involvement

Your whole family can easily share in the learning because all children are studying lessons based on the same Gospel proclaimed in church on Sunday. You can gather all your children at one time to share what they have learned and to talk about it as a family.

## 4 Unique Materials

Because *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* do not use a textbook, they are very appealing to young people and easy to use in class and at home. Each child receives a “catechism handbook” called *What the Church Believes and Teaches* (or *Mi fe católica*, the bilingual version). This handbook contains all the doctrinal elements that are considered essential at each grade level. Each week your child will receive a new lesson dated for each Sunday of the liturgical year. These lessons are at the heart of the program and will be used in class and then brought home for you to see and talk about with your children.

## 5 Five Editions

The *Weeklies* follow the three cycles of Gospel readings in five editions used to cover all the grade levels: *Seeds* (Preschool), *Promise* (Kindergarten and Grade 1), *Good News for Children* (Grades 2 and 3), *Venture* (Grades 4-6), and *Visions* (Grades 7 and 8).

## 6 Online Resources

The free resources designed for families include *The Gospel At Home*, which is a weekly summary of the Sunday Gospel and suggestions for you to use at home. You can sign up to get an email reminder with a link to the resource. There are additional seasonal resources as well. All of these can be found at [pflaumweeklies.com](http://pflaumweeklies.com).



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | September 24, 2017

## God's Payment to Us

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When I was a child, family allowances were pegged to age. The older we were, the more we got, reflecting our growing responsibility in doing household chores. If we did extra, we got extra—it was as simple as that. Complaints were few, and we waited in great anticipation for the day allowances were handed out.

Because of that experience, I feel some sympathy for the workers in today's readings who worked all day only to find they'd receive what the latecomers got. I certainly wouldn't have thought it fair if my fourteen-years-younger sister had gotten the same allowance I did!

But, as Isaiah so gently reminds us, God's ways are not ours.

God's wages cannot be measured in dollars. Grace, freedom, mercy, and love are the payment God renders for our willingness to work in his vineyard. These things cannot be divided because God is not stingy or miserly. Nor can they be earned, for they are gifts. God gives his gifts wholly and freely to all who turn to him.

Think of it this way: Does God give less grace or freedom to the adult who is baptized at thirty than to the thirty-year-old who was baptized as an infant? The question makes us laugh—of course not.

It is very much like us to want our fair share, and we've become accustomed to earning our wages. It is very like God to want every person to taste the joy and freedom of life in him, and the first step to doing so is simply accepting his invitation.

We might as well start now. †

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 55:6–9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

### Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a

I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better.

### Matthew 20:1–16a

[Jesus said,] "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*God's wages to us  
can't be divided  
because God is not  
stingy or miserly.*

## A Word From Pope Francis

Some of you said that this system cannot endure. We must change it. We must put human dignity back at the center and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need. This must be done with courage but also with intelligence, with tenacity but without fanaticism, with passion yet without violence. And all of us together, addressing the conflicts without getting trapped in them, always seeking to resolve the tensions in order to reach a higher plane of unity, of peace, and of justice. We Christians have...a guide to action...the Beatitudes and the Last Judgment passage.

—Mass and blessing of sacred pallium for new archbishops, Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2016



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What wages do you expect from God?
- Do I treat all people with dignity?





# Fairness vs. Generosity

By Gregory F. Augustine Pierce

**M**y three children, now teenagers, have always insisted that my wife and I be fair in our dealings with them. By fair, of course, they mean that we treat them absolutely equally.

“That’s not fair,” they point out with great regularity when one of them gets something the others didn’t: “He got to eat out and I didn’t. She got to stay out late and I had to come home early.” These minor injustices seem to be the ultimate in unfairness to them.

“Which would you rather have, fairness or generosity?” I often ask them. For many years they consistently chose fairness, but lately they have begun to consider the positive aspects of generosity.

There are many. For one thing, fairness implies a minimal, lowest-common-denominator kind of arrangement. If each child has to have exactly the same amount of everything—money, time, attention—then it seems that all parents can do is dole out their resources with one eye on the balance scale and the other on the bottom line.

Generosity, on the other hand, allows for the spontaneous gesture, the extravagant expenditure, the once-in-a-lifetime experience. Generosity is more fun, exciting, and unexpected

than fairness—and therefore more interesting. Fairness, on the other hand, is predictable, uninspiring, and subject to a lot of boring record-keeping.

At work, too, most of us would settle for simple fairness. There is so much injustice, inequality, lying, and cheating in the workplace that the idea of a fair wage or an evenhanded employer has great appeal.

## Operating by New Rules

Consider a job where fairness was assumed and generosity was the goal. In such an environment, “How generous can we afford to be?” would be the driving force. Rather than minimizing salaries or benefits, employers would try to find ways to share with employees whatever wealth or profit was available. Customers would not be asked to pay the maximum the market would bear for minimum-quality products. Parties in negotiation would not try to win the best deal possible for themselves but would attempt to fashion win-win situations for all involved.

“That’s ridiculous,” you might say. “That’s not the way the world works.” But today’s parable of the workers in the vineyard suggests that generosity is the way God would have things. In describing God’s reign, Jesus told the story of the workers who were hired at

various times of the day and yet were paid the same.

Just as my children did earlier, the workers who were hired early in the day complained that the owner was not being fair. He pointed out, however, that each of them had been paid a just wage—one they had agreed to—but that he was free to be generous. “Are you envious because I am generous?” he asked.

Exactly. Many of us think that fairness is the best that we can get, and we’re not eager to give generosity a try.

## Living the Kingdom—Now

But God’s reign is supposed to be “on earth as it is in heaven,” as Jesus prayed in the Our Father. That means that the way things are in heaven—in this case, generosity over fairness—is the way things should also be on earth. If we want the reign of God in our families and workplaces, then we must at least try to operate this world by the rules of the next, where “the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

That’s very lucky for all of us because, as my friend Fr. Bill Burke has observed, “We were all hired at five in the afternoon.” †



Lord, I am grateful for the gift of your compassion. Help me to be more generous in sharing your compassion with others. Amen.

From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*

Rev. Warren J. Savage and  
Mary Ann McSweeney


***Generosity is more fun, exciting, and unexpected than fairness—and therefore more interesting.***

## WEEKDAY READINGS

September 25–30

Mon. Weekday:  
Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18  
Tue. Weekday:  
Ezr 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 / Lk 8:19–21  
Wed. St. Vincent de Paul:  
Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thu. Weekday: Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9  
Fri. Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael:  
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51  
Sat. St. Jerome:  
Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45

Bringing Home  
the Word   
September 24, 2017

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