



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, October 1, 2017
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

The Lord is kind and merciful. (2x)

Preparation What Wondrous Love Is This BB 479

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: Our Blessing Cup BB 363
In The Breaking Of The Bread
BB 325

Recessional: Lord Of All Hopefulness BB 400



The Altar Flowers in Holy Angels Church
were donated in loving memory of
Phillip & Natalie Gagnon
by their daughter, Rachel Lanseigne

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



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/Plaislow** 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 24, 2017

Offertory	\$5,878.20
Priest Retirement Fund	\$1,796.00

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

October 1, 2017	Property Management
October 8, 2017	No Second Collection
October 15, 2017	Fuel
October 22, 2017	World Missions



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.



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Deborah Caron



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 or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Thank you!

FREE PIANO

The Parish has a piano in Newton that it no longer needs. The piano is free but you would need to pick it up yourself. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Albert at 382-8324 or fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.

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. 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Columbus Day Holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 9**. We will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 10.

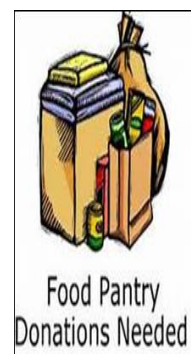
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS

On **Sunday, October 8** at the 10:00 AM Liturgy, the St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus will gather to pray for their deceased brothers and to celebrate the lives of these Catholic men who willingly served their parish and community with charity, unity, and fraternity. Following the Liturgy, all are welcome to join the Knights in the Parish Hall for light refreshments as they fondly remember the Knights who laid the groundwork for the Parish Knights of today who seek to emulate and carry out their gracious work.

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, October 1

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

Monday, October 2

7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Tuesday, October 3

9:00 AM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, October 4

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, October 5

8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, October 7

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, October 8

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Scripture Share – Our Father	<i>Plaistow</i>

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 30 ~ Vigil / 26th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

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

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

8:00 AM	John Murphy (59 th 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>

Monday, October 2 ~ The Holy Guardian Angels

Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10

8:00 AM	Regina Geary by Suzanne Schiller	<i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, October 3 ~ Weekday

Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56

8:00 AM	For Michael and his recovery	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, October 4 ~ Francis of Assisi

Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62

6:30 PM	Esther Lisbon by her family	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, October 5 ~ Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12

8:00 AM	Mary Anne Lesiczka (Month's Mind)	<i>Newton</i>
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Friday, October 6 ~ Bruno, Priest;

Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16

No Mass

Saturday, October 7 ~ Our Lady of the Rosary

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk 10:17-24 (Day)

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43 (Vigil)

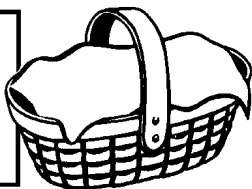
4:00 PM	John H. Walsh by his family	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, October 8 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

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

St. Vincent
de Paul
Society



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.**

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 ✧



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.

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 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.

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** ✠

**"THE THREE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION
LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF EVERY CHRISTIAN LIFE"**
(CCC 1212)

Through the water of Baptism, we are incorporated into the Body of Christ through the Spirit. We die to sin and become new creations in Christ.

Confirmation is a special outpouring and strengthening of the Holy Spirit. This sacrament permanently seals us to Jesus Christ.

Through the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we receive Christ – Body, Soul, and Divinity – in the bread and wine. Eucharist completes our initiation and unites us as one body in Christ.

Go to www.catholicn.org/lifelong for more information on the sacraments of initiation

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

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 remains 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.

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.

HURRICANE RELIEF

This weekend we are taking up a free will offering to help the victims of Hurricane Irma which devastated parts of Florida and American territories in the Carribean. Baskets are available at the back of both churches. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

BLOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus, Council 6617 are sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Friday, October 6, 2017** at the Atkinson Community Center from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. Blood is at a critical shortage, so please come and donate the gift of life. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Use sponsor code NHATKINSONCOMMUNITY.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle at Holy Angels Church will burn in loving memory of **Margaret Davidson** requested by her daughter, Marjorie Knowles

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.

SABBATH – TAKING TIME AWAY FOR YOU AND GOD

**Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer
November 3-5, 2017**

Registration Deadline – October 20, 2017

Spend the weekend reflecting on our inherent need for the rhythm of rest in our lives. Discuss ideas for weaving into your busy days simple but meaningful practices to help you be better able to care for yourself and others. There will be ample time for quiet, personal reflection and stillness. For more information, or to register, contact Sisters Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, p.m. at olhope1@yahoo.com.

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:

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

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.

Saint Luke the Evangelist

8 Atkinson Depot Road Plaistow, NH 03865 TEL (603) 382-8324 FAX (603) 382-1113

Dear Parishioners,

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has decided to modernize our offertory program to augment and better manage your stewardship dollars. Our Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide our parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer. The program is available at no cost to parishioners.

What is Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

- EFT is the mechanism that allows you to make a transaction directly from your bank account to the Parish on a pre-determined schedule. You may also use credit cards to make these transactions. Your financial information is safeguarded using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technologies, the same encryption technology employed by banks and other financial institutions.

How does this help Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish?

- EFT benefits the Parish in many ways. By the very nature of automated giving, the Parish will experience an increase in the amount received each month because there will be no missed weeks due to illness, vacation, inclement weather, etc. Further, budgeting becomes an easier task as fluctuations in individual giving is all but eliminated

How does it work?

- To enroll in the program, logon to Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish at www.stlukenh.org and click on the link for **Parish Giving**. This will bring you to the Parish Giving home page where you start the initial registration process. After completing the registration, you can pick your preferred payment method (bank transfer or credit card). Due to the inevitable credit card fees, we do ask you to consider bank transfer if it is within your means. Once that is complete you will be directed to a different page that lists our parish's various contribution opportunities.

When can I start?

- You can begin this program immediately. For more information please consult the FAQ's on the Parish Giving home page

Please prayerfully consider whether this convenient program might be a viable option for you. It will go a long way in fortifying the fiscal health of our Parish community.

Father Albert, obl. SB
Pastor

**Parish Giving can also be used for
contributions to the Capital Campaign to
"Raise the Roof!"**



Why don't you think about it too?

**Parish Giving is a simple,
secure and convenient way to
manage your stewardship
without weekly envelopes and
without worries.**

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- 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.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.

Parish Giving

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH CENTER

8 ATKINSON DEPOT ROAD, PLAISTOW, NH



A St. Luke the Evangelist tradition!

Join the fun as our Parish family comes together to create lots of holiday spirit, and to raise much-needed funds for our community.



Silent Auction ♦ *Cookie Heaven*

**5 BIG Raffles: \$1K Cash, Wine,
Quilt, Penny Sale, Theme Baskets**

Baked Goods ♦ Photos with Santa Claus

St. Luke's Jewelry Table ♦ Children's Corner

Country Store ♦ Live Entertainment

Refreshments on sale all day long!

20+ Juried Vendors of hand-crafted items!

In order for our CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR to be a success, we need everyone's help. Please look over this catalog of opportunities to see where your talents fit. Get involved as a ministry, an individual, a group of friends, or as a family!

**Call the Parish Office for more information: 603-382-8324
or email Craft Fair at: stlukenhfair@gmail.com**



PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE . . .

Don't stop talking about the Fair to everyone you meet or visit. Be sure to invite your non-St. Luke friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. However you want to do it, just get the word out for everyone to come to **our** Christmas Craft Fair! The more people from outside St. Luke's that come to the Fair, the better it is for our Parish. More people = more proceeds for the Parish and more fun!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Be excited about the Fair and what you're doing to help.
- _____ Put window banners in each of your vehicles and give mini-flyers to everyone.
- _____ Find public places to display mini-flyers – town halls, stores, libraries, sports clubs, your work place, community notice boards, etc.
- _____ Help put up – and then collect – yard signs in Plaistow, Newton and surrounding towns (put up weekend of October 21 and 22) (take down November 5 to November 19).

Silent Auction

This is our biggest money maker! We're looking to gather all kinds of prizes: **NEW** small appliances, digital audio/video/photograph equipment, toys, bikes, ski or sports equipment. We also need donations of gift certificates for weekend trips, ski and golf packages, tickets/packages to sport and entertainment events, and more! Donate something **you** can make, bake, do, etc. Think outside of the box!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Donate one or more any-value scratch Lottery ticket for the Lottery Jar (expiration dates, if any, should be after November 5!).
- _____ Get out there and get those prizes! Visit your favorite establishments and ask them to support our St. Luke Parish Community!
- _____ Solicit a prize from your work place. If you own a business, please donate a prize.
- _____ Donate three home-made pies for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas (prepare your pies for winning bidder to pick up from the Parish Office on a mutually agreed day).
- _____ Donate a Christmas-card addressing service for up to 50 cards (winning bidder drops off and picks up cards from the Parish Office on mutually agreed days).
- _____ Bring donations to church October 28 and 29 (no perishables, please).
- _____ Help make daytime follow-up phone calls and/or pick up items (throughout October).
- _____ Help arrange the Silent Auction table (Friday, November 3).
- _____ Work the Silent Auction table for a shift (Saturday, November 4).

CA\$H RAFFLE

This is our second-biggest money maker! Six chances to win: \$1,000 first prize, \$300 second prize and four \$50 third prizes!

Tickets are only 6 for \$5.00, or \$1.00 each.

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Sell books of tickets to lots of people outside of St. Luke's: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors! Remember: more people = more proceeds for the Parish
- _____ Sell Cash Raffle tickets for a shift (Saturday, November 4).



WORKER BEES: Help set-up and break down at the Parish Center, park cars, count money, make coffee and other behind the scene tasks. Fill in the enclosed sign-up sheet and watch for sign-up boards after Masses this month! Please do what you can – many hands make light work!

QUILT RAFFLE

_____ Sell tickets after 4 pm and 10 am Mass celebrations in Plaistow and/or 8 am Mass celebrations in Newton any weekend in October.

_____ Sell Quilt Raffle tickets for a shift (Saturday, November 4).

PENNY SALE

We need all kinds of **NEW** items for all ages: men and women – boys and girls. We need all kinds of gift certificates from restaurants, hair salons, auto service centers, nurseries and gardening centers, and more!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

_____ Visit your favorite establishments and ask them for an item or a gift certificate.

_____ Donate any **NEW** un-used gifts you'd like to re-gift.

_____ Bring donations to church October 28 and 29 (no perishables, please).

_____ Work the Penny Sale table for a shift (Saturday, November 4).



WINE RAFFLE

Back by popular demand! Someone's going to win a table full of wine and wine accessories! (No hard liquor, please.)

Santa's Helpers needed to:

_____ Donate a bottle of wine – red, white or sparkling—all kinds of wine!

_____ Collect empty wine boxes from the NH Liquor store.

_____ Bring wine and empty boxes to Parish Center Friday, November 3, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

_____ Work the Wine Raffle table for a shift (Saturday, November 4).

THEME BASKET RAFFLE

We need wrapped, ready-to-affle baskets with a theme. Get creative! Here are some ideas: chocolate, golfers, indoor and outdoor gardening, fishermen, movie night, games, books, Christmas theme/decorations, girls, boys, music, Thanksgiving theme/decorations, babies, pets, faith formation/reflection, knitting, crocheting, quilting, scrapbooking, children's creative arts, all kinds of cooking and food: grilling, baking, international!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

_____ Create and donate a basket (please list what's in the basket and its value).

_____ Ask where you shop to donate a basket: hair dresser, gym/work out place, shoe store, auto service, pet store (please ask them to list what's in the basket and its value).

_____ Bring donations to the Parish Center Friday, November 3, 3:00pm-8:00 pm (no perishables, please).

Cookie Heaven

Bake dozens and dozens and dozens of delicious cookies. Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free cookies very welcome; please label clearly! Watch for the **Cookie Angel's** appearance!

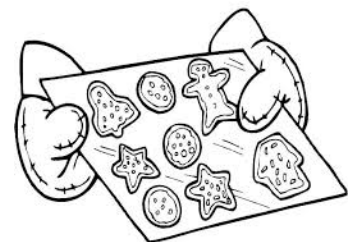
Santa's Helpers needed to:

_____ Bake cookies

_____ Bake cookies

_____ Bake cookies

_____ Please bring to Parish Center – not Fr. Albert's office! – Friday, November 3, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.



NOTE: We are not using cans. Please do not bring cans of any size to church.

Country Store

All kinds of goodies for all ages: men and women – boys and girls, plus Christmas and Thanksgiving items.

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Hand knit or crochet items: hats, mittens, afghans, sweaters, etc. Baby and American Girl sizes sell fast!
- _____ Make jams, jellies, canned fruit, pickles, relishes, etc. (no perishables, please).
- _____ Bake pies, breads, brownies, cupcakes, etc. (cookies will go to Cookie Heaven). Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free baked goods very welcome; please label clearly!
- _____ Bring to Parish Center Friday, November 3, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Thrift Store

All kinds of **NEW** and **AS NEW** items for all ages: men and women—boys and girls, plus Christmas and Thanksgiving items. (No electronics or Catholic Sacramentals, please.)

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Donate seasonal decorations, wreaths, table décor, etc.; kitchen wares, wood-worked items, popular books, CDs, DVDs, toys and games (if no missing or broken pieces).
- _____ Donate NEW “As Seen on TV” items.
- _____ Donate Grab bags (no cookies or anything perishable, please).
- _____ Bring to Parish Center Friday, November 3, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

St. Luke's Own Jewelry Table

Time to clean out those jewelry boxes and drawers! Bring in all things in good condition you don't wear anymore: earrings, pins, rings, necklaces, bracelets, cuff links, tie pins, chains, watches, etc.!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Donate new or as new jewelry.
- _____ Bring to church October 28 and 29 or call Danielle to pick it up (603-382-6499).

Children's Corner

Lollipop Game, Face Painting, decorate home-made sugar cookies! Lots of things to keep little people busy – and entertained!

Santa's Helpers needed to:

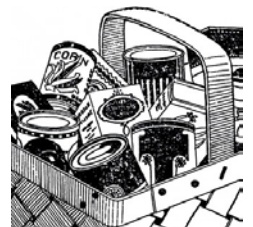
- _____ Donate Tootsie Roll Pops (pops need to be big enough not to fall through the holes).
- _____ Donate small- and medium-sized prizes suitable for boys or girls.
- _____ Bring to church October 28 and 29.
- _____ Help run Children's Corner activities (Saturday, November 4).

Food – Glorious Food!

Delicious food & beverages will be available all day thanks to Marie Farren and her team of helpers.

Santa's Helpers needed to:

- _____ Donate ingredients for American Chop Suey and other delicious food and beverages—watch for sign-up boards after Masses this month!
- _____ Help prepare food Thursday, November 2 and/or Friday, November 3.
- _____ Work a shift in the kitchen or as a cashier (Saturday, November 4).



Fair Set-up and Break Down: Santa's Strong Helpers needed to work on Thursday, November 2, Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 – fill in the enclosed sign-up sheet and watch for sign-up boards after Masses this month!

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, November 4, 2017 – 9:00 am–3:00 pm – St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Center
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

*** PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15TH!**
IN THE COLLECTION BASKET OR TO THE PARISH OFFICE

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name: _____ Best time to reach you: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Best day-time phone: _____ Home Cell Work

Best evening phone: _____ Home Cell Work

E-mail: _____



Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody.

There was an important job to be done & Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

WE NEED YOU! Can you be one of Santa's Helpers?

* * Worker Bees * *

_____ Sunday 10/29, after 8am Mass – Move donations from Newton to Parish Office in Plaistow

_____ Sunday 10/29, after 10am Mass – Move donations from church to Parish Office in Plaistow

_____ Thursday 11/2, afternoon - Help collect and clean benches from Scouts Camp in Kingston (time TBD)

NOTE: Specific jobs will be assigned when you arrive. Please come at your allotted time.

_____ Thursday 11/2, 6pm-8pm - Help set up banners, tables and basketball net in Parish Center

_____ Thursday 11/2, 6:30pm-7:30pm - Help unload benches at Parish Center

_____ Thursday 11/2, 6pm-9pm - I have a pickup truck/trailer we can use

_____ Thursday 11/2, 7pm-7:30pm – Bring items from Liturgy decorations closet to Parish Center

_____ Thursday 11/2, 7:30pm-9pm – Decorate stage and Café

_____ Thursday 11/2, 7:30pm-8pm – Bring items from Sacristy, Confessional and choir loft to Parish Center

_____ Thursday 11/2, 7:30pm-8pm – Move benches to tables

_____ Thursday 11/2, 7:45pm-8:30pm - Help unload Country Store and Silent Auction vehicles

_____ Thursday 11/2, 8pm-8:45pm – Move Yard Sale items to correct tables

_____ Thursday 11/2, 8pm-9pm - Bring items from office to Parish Center and move to correct tables

_____ Thursday 11/2, 8pm-9pm – Move wood blocks to tables

_____ Thursday 11/2, 8pm-9pm – Move chairs to tables

_____ Thursday 11/2, 8:30pm-9pm – Test and tape electrical cords

_____ Friday 11/3, between 12 Noon – 8pm - Help set-up Silent Auction Tables

– I will come from _____ to _____

_____ Friday 11/3, between 12 Noon – 8pm - Open doors for vendors at Parish Center

– I will come from _____ to _____

_____ Friday 11/3, between 12 Noon – 8pm - Help set-up Parish Tables and decorate Café tables

– I will come from _____ to _____

_____ Sunday 11/5, after 10am Mass (until 12:30pm) Help match Penny Sale, Theme basket and Silent Auction winners with their items in the Religious Education Office in Plaistow

Call the Parish Office for more information: 603-382-8324

Please check one or more ways that you're able to help. * PLEASE RETURN BY OCTOBER 15TH!

WE NEED YOU!

Can you be one of Santa's Helpers?

***** PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERRED SHIFT TIME FOR SATURDAY 11/4 *****

_____ Early Bird 7:30 am – 9:00 am

_____ Afternoon 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

_____ Morning 8:30 am – 11:00 am

_____ Hall Take-Down 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

_____ Lunch 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

_____ Other (please be specific) _____

When you arrive, please stop at Volunteer Check-In for your assignment.

_____ I can't stand for very long _____ I can't climb stairs _____ I can't lift heavy items

_____ Other physical limitation(s) _____

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 7am-2pm** – Help with Parking – I will come from _____ to _____

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 8am-3pm** – Help at Parish Tables – I will come from _____ to _____

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 2:30pm-4pm** - Monitor Silent Auction Tables as bids are tallied

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 3:30pm-5pm** - Help breakdown in Parish Center and/or bring items to the church

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 3:30pm-5pm** - I have a pickup truck/trailer we can use

_____ **Saturday, 11/4, 4pm-6pm** – Help match Silent Auction items with winning bidders in Religious Education Office in Plaistow

I prefer to work at:

_____ **CASH RAFFLE** _____ **Silent Auction** _____ **Penny Sale** _____ **WINE RAFFLE**

_____ **THEME BASKET RAFFLE** _____ **Quilt Raffle** _____ **Cookie Heaven** _____ **Country Store**

_____ **St. Luke's Own Jewelry Table** _____ **Children's Corner** _____ **St. Luke's Café**

I will donate to...PLEASE, only NEW or AS NEW items (this is not a yard sale).

_____ **Silent Auction** _____

_____ **Penny Sale** _____

_____ **Country Store** _____

_____ **Jewelry** _____

_____ **Children's Corner** _____

[Please bring non-perishable donations to church 10/28 and 10/29]

I will donate to...PLEASE, only NEW or AS NEW items (this is not a yard sale).

_____ **Wine Raffle** _____

_____ **Theme Baskets** _____

_____ **Cookie Heaven** Cookies, cookies, cookies, cookies, cookies, cookies, and more cookies!

_____ **Country Store** _____

[Please bring donations for these tables, and all perishable items, to the Parish Center 11/3 – 3-8pm]

_____ **St. Luke's Café** : Please watch for special sign-up boards after Mass!

Please don't wait for somebody else to do what you could do! St. Luke's needs your help.

Call the Parish Office for more information: 603-382-8324

Please check one or more ways that you're able to help. * PLEASE RETURN BY OCTOBER 15TH!

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 1, 2017 • The Story of Two Sons

Sunday Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: From what challenges have you held back but then taken up responsibility? What challenges have you taken on but then dropped?

Gospel Question: Which son are you most like—the one who says no but comes through or the one who says yes but doesn't follow through?

FOR PARISHIONERS, BY AGE GROUP

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Gospel Question: Are you more like the first son in the parable, or the second one?

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What commitments do you make and keep?

Gospel Question: What is your attitude about keeping your word?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: Which is better, saying no and then doing what one is asked or saying yes and not following through?

Gospel Question: What responsibilities do you have in your family? In your religion class?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What is a promise?

Gospel Question: What is a promise you keep?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: When do you say yes to your parents but not do what they ask?

Gospel Question: Who does what God asks?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: What are some choices I make?

Gospel Question: What does Jesus teach us?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

A dad asked his two sons to help him out. One said no but changed his mind and helped. The other son said yes but did not help. Which son helped his dad? When we learn about Jesus, are we ready to follow him right away? Do we put aside our video games, shows, and cell phones to really hear God's message to us?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

Look for opportunities to say yes to God. If a substitute altar server is needed, volunteer. Hold the door for someone who needs help and greet them with a smile.

Question of the Week



What makes you say no instead of yes when you are asked to do something?

Family Prayer

Jesus, help us to hear what you want us to know and to say yes to you.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Un padre les pidió a sus dos hijos que lo ayudaran. Uno dijo que no pero cambió de parecer y lo ayudó. El otro hijo dijo sí pero no ayudó. ¿Qué hijo ayudó a su papá? Cuando aprendemos algo sobre Jesús, ¿estamos listos para seguirlo en ese mismo momento? ¿Dejamos de lado nuestros videojuegos, programas y celulares para escuchar realmente el mensaje que Dios tiene para nosotros?

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/readings para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Busca oportunidades para decirle sí a Dios. Si se necesita un monaguillo, ofrécete como voluntario. Sostiene la puerta a alguien que necesite ayuda y saludalo con una sonrisa.

Pregunta de la semana



¿Qué te hace decir no en lugar de sí cuando te piden hacer algo?

Oración en familia

Jesús, ayúdanos a escuchar lo que quieres que sepamos y a decirte sí.

✠ 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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | October 1, 2017

Consensus With Christ

By Mary Katherine Deeley

Many committees and work teams believe the ideal way to make a decision is by consensus. Though time-consuming, consensus assures that everyone is heard and that all have been given a chance to come to the same point of view. Everyone owns the decision and works to support it.

Saint Paul gives a Christian spin to the whole idea of consensus—not for making decisions but for living as Christ would have us live. The apostle wants us to have the same attitude Jesus had.

For Christians, “the same attitude” means we share the same Spirit, have compassion and sympathy for one another, set aside our own interests, and look to the interests of others.

“Wait,” you say. “Does that mean I can never say what I want?” No, but it does mean trusting others to care for your interests just as you care for theirs.

This is not easy for us, but Paul is adamant: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.” There’s the difference. In the corporate world, consensus is about coming to the same conclusion. In the Christian life, consensus means putting on the one mind of Christ.

If we can do that, we can empty ourselves for the sake of others, take the risk to love and care for others, and live in the utter confidence that Christ dwells in us.

Where does such confidence come from? From Christ himself, who loved us from the very beginning and who invited us through baptism to be one with him.

That’s an idea we can all support. †

Christians share the same Spirit...and look to the interests of others.

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 18:25–28

But if the wicked turn from the wickedness they did and do what is right and just, they save their lives.

Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:28–32

[Jesus said,] “When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him.”

A Word From Pope Francis

Priestly joy is a joy which is sister to obedience....It is likewise an obedience to the Church in service....The availability of her priests makes the Church a house with open doors, a refuge for sinners, a home for people living on the streets, a place of loving care for the sick, a camp for the young....Wherever God’s people have desires or needs, there is the priest, who knows how to listen and feels a loving mandate from Christ who sends him to relieve that need with mercy.

—Homily,
Holy Thursday,
April 17, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Am I fair to God by giving him thanksgiving, adoration, and obedience for his love?
- Am I fair to others by offering them gratitude and humble kindness?



Christ Jesus Is Always Our Starting Point

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

Being Catholic starts with

Jesus Christ. In fact, everything begins with Christ. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). He is “the firstborn of all creation” (Colossians 1:15).

Of course, I wasn’t around before the creation, but from my perspective I can imagine things happening something like this: God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was sitting at breakfast when God the Father said, “Being God is wonderful, but eternity can sure get boring.” “So let’s do something different,” the Son replied. “Let’s create something out of nothing!” The Father asked, “Can we do that?” “Sure,” said the Spirit, “we’re God, aren’t we?” The Father said, “OK, what shall we make?”

And (this is the crucial point) what did God make? Jesus Christ—the firstborn of creation, the Word through

whom God made everything else that exists.

If you are not accustomed to thinking of Jesus in this way, an analogy may help. Years ago when I was teaching at a seminary, one popular hobby among the students was making model airplanes. On winter evenings the hobby shop would be crowded with boys gluing together various shapes of balsa wood pinned to diagrams on a table.

When asked, “What are you making?” the seminarians never said, “I am gluing piece A7 to H5.” One might respond, “I am making a P-51 Mustang.” From the beginning, their minds were on the finished project. Similarly, if you asked God at the creation, “What are you making?” he would have responded: “We’re making Jesus Christ.”

God’s Masterpiece

Jesus is God’s masterpiece. God created Christ out of love, and Christ returned perfect love to God. We can see this in

everything Jesus said and did while he walked on earth. We see this most clearly in Jesus humbling himself, “becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8). And on the cross “he handed over the spirit” (John 19:30) to the Church so that we who are baptized put on Christ and become his body.

At Mass we ask God to “grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.” Our incorporation into Christ is the principal petition at every Eucharist. We pray that we, to paraphrase St. Augustine, be what we see on the altar and receive what we are—Christ’s body. Through Christ, in him, with him, our lives have meaning. We live for more than ourselves. We are taken up into that great, mysterious plan of God that is Jesus Christ. †

GOD’S COWORKERS

And what is our role in God’s plan? Our mission is reconciliation. While God has reconciled all things in Christ, “making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:20), with our incorporation into Christ, God has “given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). We are to improve the quality of life for all, to alleviate hunger and disease, injustice and conflict.

And while this task may seem impossible, we Catholics know that it is possible. In fact, we know that it will be achieved because it is God’s plan. This is what gives us our inherent Catholic optimism. We are optimistic because we know that grace is more original than sin. God’s great plan of love did not start with Adam and Eve, the fruit, or the snake, but with Jesus. Everything starts with Jesus. † –Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for your example of humble service toward others. Help me to be a humble and loving person toward all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 2–7

Mon. The Holy Guardian Angels:
Zec 8:1–8 / Mt 18:1–5, 10


Tue. Weekday:
Zec 8:20–23 / Lk 9:51–56

Wed. St. Francis of Assisi:
Neh 2:1–8 / Lk 9:57–62

Thu. Weekday:
Neh 8:1–4a, 5–6, 7b–12 / Lk 10:1–12

Fri. Weekday:
Bar 1:15–22 / Lk 10:13–16

Sat. Our Lady of the Rosary:
Bar 4:5–12, 27–29 / Lk 10:17–24

Bringing Home
the Word 
October 1, 2017

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