



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)

Show us your kindness, O God.
(2x)

Preparation Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 46
Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior
Communion: Holy Is His Name BB 697
Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63

10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)

Show us your kindness, O God.
(2x)

Preparation We Will Rise Again BB 440
Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 46
Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace
Communion: Like A Shepherd BB 607
People Look East BB 40
Recessional: Ready The Way BB 49



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** 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!

<u>November 22, 2017</u>	
Thanksgiving - Food Pantry	\$210.00
<u>December 3, 2017</u>	
Offertory	\$7,453.60
Property Management	\$2,088.65

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

December 10, 2017 Retired Religious Fund
December 17, 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 ✂

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, two bulletins will have to be submitted early.

The deadline for the **December 24** bulletin is at **12:00 Noon on Thursday, December 14.**

The deadline for the **December 31** bulletin is at **12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 20.**

Thank you for your understanding!

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Advent season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Evening Prayer.



AMAZON SMILE DONATION

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$48.71 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation** as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2017.

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.

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is now closed until Spring 2018. This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.
Fr. Albert



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

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow church access ramp, Plaistow office building & convent window replacement, Newton rectory interior flooring, Newton church lighting and painting, Newton rectory painting as funds become available.

How can you help?

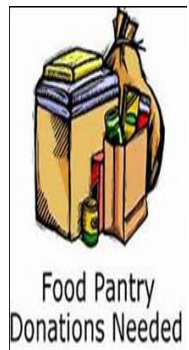
Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist - Capital Campaign.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 10

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 13

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>

Thursday, December 14

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, December 16

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 17 **Move Gifts to Food Pantry**

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, December 9 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

4:00 PM	Martin and Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

8:00 AM	Wayne Bettencourt and John Rogers by Janice Bettencourt	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Armando and William Lombardi by their family	<i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, December 11 ~ Damasus I, Pope

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving for the Blessing of Good Health	<i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

8:00 AM	Robert Rivard by Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 13 ~ Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

6:30 PM	Mary Guilmette by Lucia Guilmette	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, December 14 ~ John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

8:00 AM	The Intentions of Val Barczak by Grace Bukowski	<i>Newton</i>
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Friday, December 15 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
No Mass

Saturday, December 16 ~ Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (Day)
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Intentions of Mary Coltin and Paul & Lucia O'Leary by Mark and Colleen Hammond	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 17 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

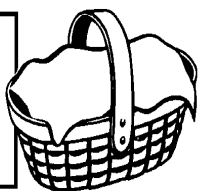
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

8:00 AM	Deborah Caron by Frances and Don Harper	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Charles and Mary Jesionowski family by their daughter Sonia and family	<i>Plaistow</i>



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week for the
Intentions of the Daniels Family

St. Vincent de Paul Society



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 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.**

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH 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.

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, January 7, 2018** 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.

IMPORTANT ADORATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to the many parishioners who have dedicated an hour or two each week for ten years. Due to the continued difficulty of covering the hours of Eucharistic Adoration of Our Lord in Plaistow, we are unable to move forward in continuing Adoration on Wednesdays. **The last day for Adoration in Plaistow will be on Wednesday, December 13.** The church will continue to be open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

Eucharistic Adoration of Our Lord in Newton on Thursdays will continue from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM.

HELP WANTED – CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some decorating on **Sunday, December 17 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include Christmas decorating and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for Christmas Masses. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster!

CONTEMPLATIVE WEEKENDS

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer invites you to come away for awhile and BE STILL! These weekends are precious times of silence to be alone with God. Cost is \$140 for the weekend. The retreat weekend dates are:

December 15-17, 2017

January 19-21, 2018

February 16-18, 2018

For more information, or to register, call Sisters Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, p.m. at 603-878-2346.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	music@stluketheevangelist.net
Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✂ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✂

Kimberly's 12th Annual Holiday Give Away!!!

It's time again to clean your closets and start fresh!!! We all have clothes taking up space in our homes while there are people on the streets who are cold. Because of this, Kimberly Andrade is holding her 12th Annual Clothing/Coat/Canned Food Drive at **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish** in Plaistow, NH from **12:00 to 4:00 PM on January 6 & 7, 2018**. Items that will be collected include, but are not limited to: winter jackets, new and used clothing from any season and any decade, non-perishable food items, business clothing, blankets, sheets, hats, gloves, and unused socks and underwear (*preferably in their packages*). **All clothing must be cleaned prior to donation.** Clothing received will be donated to organizations such as Ruth's House, Emmaus House, and Catie's Closet. Non-perishable food items will be brought to St. Luke's Food Pantry. If there are any questions, or individuals interested in volunteering, please contact Kimberly at kimberly-andrade@comcast.net. Thank you so much for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, MUSIC, & LIGHTS

Immaculate Conception Parish in Nashua invites you to a Christmas Concert, Talk by Fr. Von DeRosia, and Social Gathering on **December 15, 2017 from 7:30 to 11:00 PM**.

St. Thomas Church in Derry, NH will be hosting a Christmas Concert on **December 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM**. Experience the spirit of the season and step away from the hustle and bustle for an evening of beautiful music.

St. Lucy Church in Methuen, MA invites you to celebrate its 60th Anniversary by joining them for a concert featuring Gregory Norbet on **December 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM**.

The LaSalette Shrine in Enfield, NH invites to you enjoy their Christmas Lights, Concerts, and other programs during the month of December. For more information, go to www.lasaletteofenfield.org.

WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The St Jude Council is co-sponsoring a Christmas Tree Sale at the Lover's Lane Tree Farm located on Lover's Lane off Rte 108 on the Haverhill/Plaistow line. The sale is taking place on **Saturdays and Sundays through December 17 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. Knight Andy Gagnon, Jr will be donating the profits to the Knights and the monies will be used to help fund the Knights' charitable activities during the year. The sale is being run in memory of Andy's father, Knight Andy Gagnon, Sr., who passed away last year. The trees are located on a beautiful piece of property and are "cut your own." There will be plenty of help available to cut the tree and get it to your vehicle. The cost of each tree is \$40. There will also be refreshments and a warming campfire for your enjoyment.

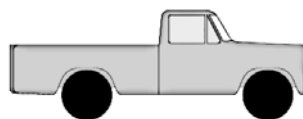
GIVING TREES

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 17**. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!



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.



PARISH TRUCK WANTED

With 2 campuses, a cemetery and multiple buildings, it has become a challenge to move things from here to there, or there to here... so we are looking for some help...

If you have a pick-up truck model year 2000 or newer and are looking to rid yourself of it, consider donating it to the Parish as a charitable gift! We are interested in a 4 WD pick-up in good working order with a current valid state inspection. The Parish will have it inspected by a qualified mechanic before accepting it, and will handle all transfer details.

Please call Father Albert at the Parish Office with any questions (382-8324) or contact by email at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Parish Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2017

December 2017

Dear Members of the Saint Luke Parish Community:

With the assistance of our Finance Council and the Parish staff, I present to you the 2017 Fiscal Year Financial Report. First an apology... we typically present this Financial Report in the Fall, but the event on June 28 which saw all electronic systems in Plaistow damaged by a lightning strike delayed all financial reporting. The work of the Christmas Fair then became urgent, so I decided to delay the report until December.

The "unplanned" event from this summer did not do us any good in terms of budgeting in that our insurance deductible is \$5000.00. The good news in the tale of the lightning bolt gone bad is that beyond our deductible our insurance covered all our losses.

At the end of the fiscal year, the Parish showed a \$39,330.00 surplus, but this surplus is a bit of an accounting phantom. This "surplus" was not a surplus at all, because we owed the Diocese much of the balance of the 2017 FY assessments that needed to be paid by June 30, 2017. We were able to pay off these assessments using monies from our operating and property management accounts. This represents a major achievement for the Parish, since we had previously relied on loans or hardship grants from the Diocese. Speaking of loans, our 2014 outstanding debt of \$14,103 was paid off in full through a donation from a generous parishioner. Our community is of this FY debt-free.

The Parish continues to be challenged by our ability to generate enough income to meet expenses. We have continued to monitor all expenses and have tried to use our resources wisely. I have been encouraged by your generous response to the mission of the Parish. In presenting this report to you, I request that you continue to seriously and prayerfully evaluate your support of the Parish. You as a Parishioner are responsible for the kind of Parish you want to have; I respectfully ask that you make decisions that you deem appropriate for your own contributions of time, talent and treasure.

I am deeply grateful for your continued support and stewardship on behalf of our community.

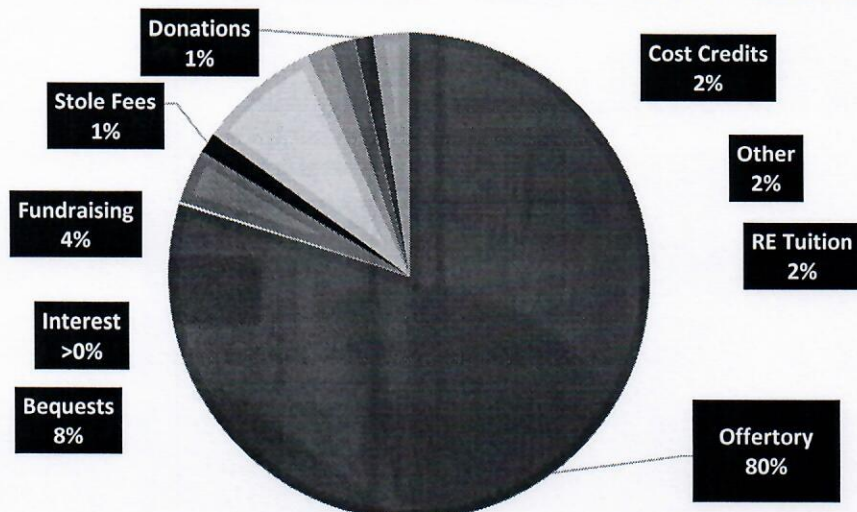
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Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income		
Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$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

INCOME 2017

Offertory
 Interest
 Fundraising
 Stole Fees
 Bequests
 RE Tuition
 Other
 Donations
 Cost Credits

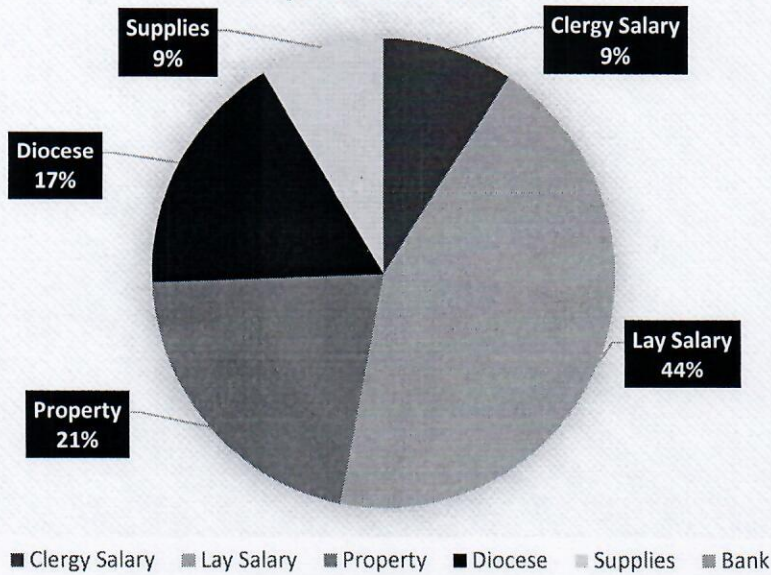


Income 2017 (with comparisons from 2016)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Offertory	\$420,579	\$399,452	\$21,127	Sunday & Holy Day contributions, Fuel & Property Management collections
Interest	764	838	-74	Interest from Diocesan Central Fund
Fundraising	18,918	18,686	232	Christmas Fair \$17,587, Yard Sale \$1331
Stole Fees	7365	5330	2035	Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms
Bequests	43,098	35,791	7307	
RE Tuition	9067	6205	2862	
Other income	8233	10,982	-2749	Bulletin, candles and other
Other Donations	6578	6388	190	Donations outside of offertory
Cost Credit	12,600	4200	8400	Cemetery \$4200, Food Pantry \$8400
<u>Total income</u>	<u>527,202</u>	<u>487,872</u>	<u>39,330</u>	

Sunday contributions and contributions to the Property and Fuel collections make up 80% of the income of the Parish. Our offertory increased \$21,127 this year. In addition, Parishioners raised \$17,587 from the Christmas Fair and \$1331 at our summer Yard Sale. Religious Education enrollment experienced an increase resulting in a \$2862 increase.

Expenses 2017



Expenses 2017 (with comparisons from 2016)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$42,129	45,893	3764	Salary for Pastor, Diocesan Insurance & benefits, Expenses for household in Newton Medical insurance costs down \$2848
Lay Salaries & Benefits	202,995	204,853	-1858	4 full time & 2 part-time employees Medical insurance costs up \$2739.
Property Expenses	98,379	93,964	4695	Property & liability insurance, utilities, snow & trash removal, equipment service contracts, fire alarm service, maintenance of campus buildings
Diocesan Assessments	78,039	74,642	-3397	Diocesan Clergy retirement & sick funds, Diocesan Administration costs, Catholic school subsidy
Supplies	40,156	41,723	-1567	All church liturgical supplies, music, Office supplies, faith formation programs, printing & postage
Bank charges	2576	2457	119	Bank service charges
<u>Total expenses</u>	<u>464,274</u>	<u>463,252</u>	<u>-1022</u>	

Salaries and benefits make up 53% of the Parish's expenses. Diocesan assessments - which the Parish continues to struggle to pay – make up 17% of Parish expenses. The expenses for electric utilities, fuel oil and other property expenses rose by \$4695, partly due to the \$5000 insurance deductible the Parish paid as a result of the June 28 lighting event. Program expenses were reduced \$1567 from FY 2016, a continuing trend.

Some definitions...

INCOME

Offertory: Money associated with the regular weekly collection from Masses. This includes Sunday collection, Holy Days, Fuel & Property Management collections

Stole fee: Donations associated with the celebration of the sacraments.

Diocesan collections: Charitable collections for specific groups or causes, exclusive of the Diocesan Assessments (ex. Catholic Relief Services, Retired Religious Fund, Church in Eastern Europe, etc.).

Fundraising: Monies derived from any fundraising activity; principally from the Parish Christmas Fair and Yard Sale

Other donations: Monies given to the Parish outside of regular offertory

EXPENSES

Diocesan assessments: Monies assessed on the basis of Parish gross income for the Diocesan Administration, Catholic Schools, property and liability insurance, workmen's compensation, Diocesan programs, clergy retirement fund, clergy health insurance, clergy continuing education, and Cathedral expenses. Certain special collections are "taxed" at a specific percentage of the Parish gross income (Seminary Fund, Peter's Pence, Parish to Parish Mission Fund, Catholic University/USCCB).

Program expenses: Costs associated with RCIA, Religious Education, Scripture Sharing, Lenten Journey, adult education programs, music and youth ministry.

Property expenses: Costs associated with insurance, utilities, fuel oil, snow removal, equipment and building service contracts.

Supplies: All liturgical supplies for churches, music and subscriptions for music, faith formation publications, printing & postage. Costs associated with all Parish programs and activities.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Shepherd of Israel

Almighty and ever-living God,
you are the source of all consolation
and font of our salvation.
You have saved your people from
the wilderness,
gathered them like lambs into
your bosom,
and fed them with a mother's care.
Make level within us all that sin has
made rugged;
take the crooked paths of our hearts
and make them straight.
May our repentant hearts turn
to you and,
at the coming of your Son, be found
eager to welcome him
so that, in joyful celebration,
your chosen people can say, "Here is
your God!"
Through Christ our Lord.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

A New Heaven and Earth

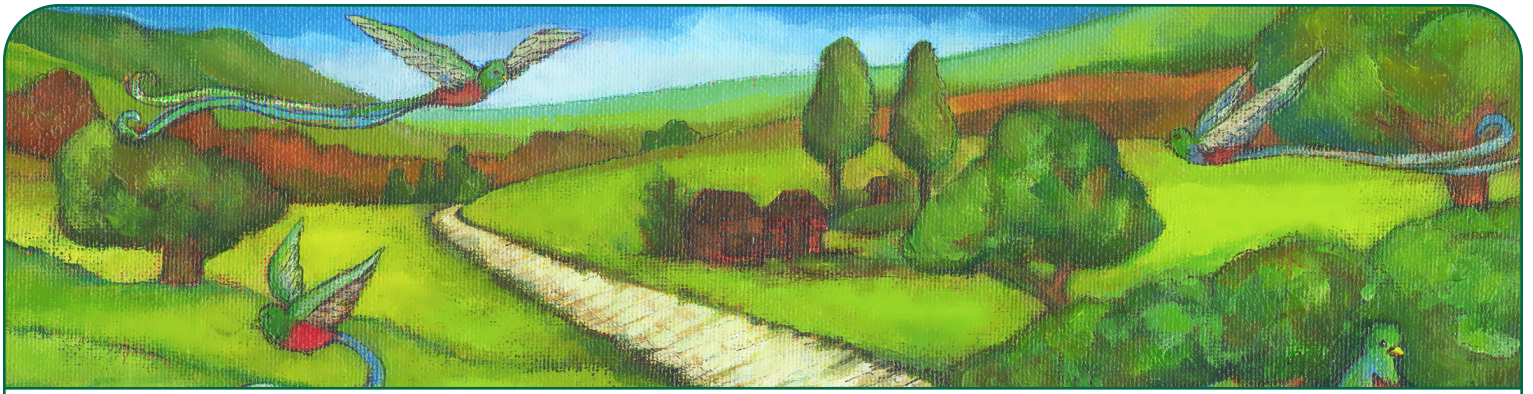


Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on the future God has in store for us. When we delve more deeply into the Scriptures, it becomes clear that Advent is not as simple as we may think. Last week's readings urged us to be watchful and to ready ourselves for Christ's coming. This is not easy; it requires attention to God's Word within us. This week's message is in the same vein.

The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture for the Israelites who are in captivity. Salvation will come, and the Lord will forgive all their sins. The image is radical. Isaiah depicts mountains being leveled and valleys being filled. He

directs Zion to tell this Good News to the entire world. A similar theme is in the Gospel. John the Baptist is the herald of the coming Messiah. John calls all creation to repent and seek God's forgiveness. He is the herald who paves the way for Jesus, the one who reveals the new heaven and earth, which Peter speaks of in the Second Reading.

What does it look like to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ? It takes a vulnerable and watchful heart. We can find ourselves held captive. When we seek God's forgiveness with contrite hearts, we open ourselves to an amazing grace. God's mercy is the wellspring of all healing. So let us act out our salvation in the ways we live and announce the triumphant entry of the coming Christ.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 11

Incredible Things

Today's Gospel concludes with the phrase, "We have seen strange things today." As we begin the second week of Advent, it is important to recall the marvelous things our God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Through his Paschal Mystery, we are saved from death and share in eternal life. Jesus comes to heal or liberate us from all that paralyzes us and that keeps us from living the Good News. What incredible things have you seen? Around the Advent wreath, share ways you have been saved by God. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary's message is one of hope and assurance. Appearing as a pregnant woman, she reveals that the child she carries will free the poor and oppressed. In the second option for the Gospel, John, who is in Elizabeth's womb, leaps with joy as Mary greets Elizabeth. Consider the times you have leapt with joy when you encountered Christ. *Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

Wednesday, December 13

St. Lucy

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells those who are burdened to come to him so they can find rest. Jesus is explaining to the crowds that he is the new law (yoke); to gain wisdom is to learn from him and follow him. St. Lucy, whom we honor today, understood this invitation. Lucy heeded Jesus' call and found rest/life with him. Take time today to research Lucy and the traditions surrounding her feast; for example, bake braided bread. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

The psalm refrain today tells us that God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and kind. It recalls God's saving deeds when he rescued his people from exile and slavery. It is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to tell of the faithfulness of God. The psalmist wants to tell everyone of God's Kingdom. In the Gospel, those who oppose John's message and eventually Jesus' message are attacking God's Kingdom. Advent calls us to announce the coming of God's Reign. Write a poem of thanksgiving today and be mindful of God's infinite love and mercy. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10–1, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

Friday, December 15

Wisdom

We are invited in today's readings to contemplate the Wisdom tradition in the Scriptures. Those who follow the Christ are taught the right path. They live in the light. Listening to the voice of Wisdom brings the fullness of life. Take time to listen to Christ's voice. Reconnect with a wisdom figure in your life. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 16

In Plain Sight

Today's readings connect back to the readings from Thursday. John the Baptist, like Elijah, has announced the coming Reign of God, but some did not recognize him. It can be easy to miss what is in plain sight. Jesus also tells his disciples that he will suffer. Whom do you recognize as one who announces the coming of Christ? Let the refrain of the psalm be your prayer today so that we might see the living God and be saved. *Today's Readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*



The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist urges people to prepare a smooth, straight road on which God can come to us. Isaiah's words of comfort to the exiled Israelites assure them and us that we can count on God's forgiveness. Jesus' words call for us to turn our lives around and make sure that we have an open path for God to enter our hearts. **Note:** Tuesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a day to celebrate Mary our Mother.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Advent and Christmas send the message that Jesus is the Son of God who chose to live among us as one of us. Your child learned how Jesus and his cousin John learned the same stories about God that we all hear in the Advent readings. Talk about how stories help us learn. Then ask your child to tell you the story about Juan Diego meeting Jesus' mother—Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is December 12.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child is very aware of growth and change in his or her own body—and is growing as a Christian too. Be sure to praise your child for the ways he or she shares with others. Ask your child to tell you the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and share with you the little booklet he or she made in class.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned the words of John the Baptist, who told people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Talk about the ways your family is preparing for Christmas. Are you thinking and praying about the birth of Jesus, or are you thinking about toys and gifts? Ask your child to tell the family the stories of Saint Nicholas and Saint Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week, your child prepared for the Christmas feast by learning about the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, two biblical characters who preceded Jesus. Your child also learned the importance of forgiving and seeking forgiveness as part of making a straight path for the Lord's arrival. Make sure that your family celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation at your parish during the Advent season. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal with you.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Gift-giving has long been a part of the Christmas celebration. In class, your teen explored his or her own attitudes about giving presents at Christmas. He or she also explored how to give of him- or herself in the gifts that he or she gives. Talk about the way your family approaches giving gifts at Christmastime. Think of ways you can give of yourself to the people you give presents. Also ask your son or daughter to share with the family what he or she learned about God's actions in history.

Pray Together

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Tuesday, December 12), add praying the Hail Mary to your Advent wreath prayer this week. You may even want to place a statue or picture of Mary near your wreath.

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2017-18**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT –
Christmas Liturgy schedule signups for all ministers**

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)
SUNDAYS OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SEASON
6:00 PM IN NEWTON
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOLLOWS
DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

Sunday, December 3 11:30 am Parish Advent Activity (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Thursday, December 7 Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*A Holy Day of Obligation*)
LITURGY: 6:30 PM – Vigil - Plaistow

Friday, December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*A Holy Day of Obligation*)
LITURGY: 8:00 AM – Newton

Sunday, December 10 4:00 PM Reconciliation Service - Saint Michael, Exeter
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Sunday, December 17 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

Monday, December 18 **LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE**

Wednesday, December 20 NO Adoration at Plaistow

Thursday, December 21 NO Adoration at Newton

Saturday, December 23 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 24 8:00 am Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Plaistow)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 24 **VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow)
6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)

Monday, December 25 **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
9:00 am Liturgy (Newton)

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 25, 26, JAN. 1

Tuesday, December 26 NO Liturgy at Plaistow

Wednesday, December 27 NO Adoration at Plaistow (Liturgy 6:30 PM)

Thursday, December 28 NO Adoration at Newton (Liturgy 8:00 am)

Saturday, December 30 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 31 8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 31 4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (*A Holy Day of Obligation*) (Plaistow)

Monday, January 1 8:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (*A Holy Day of Obligation*) (Newton)

Saturday, January 6 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil - SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(Plaistow)

Sunday, January 7 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00 am Liturgy, Solemnity of the Epiphany (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, Solemnity of the Epiphany (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Advent | December 10, 2017

Putting Our House in Order

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the weeks before Christmas, preparations for the holiday seem all-consuming. We cook, we shop, we clean; we buy or make presents for our families and friends. Sometimes we break into song, and often we give more generously than at other times. We'll probably have guests, and we'll want to do a little extra to make ready for them.

Today's readings turn our gaze to a more significant kind of preparation for Christmas and remind us that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem more

than two thousand years ago, waits to come again in the fullness of time. More to the point, he waits for us to open our hearts and our lives to him. What does that take exactly?

Think about the way we clean house for special guests. Not content with simple wiping and dusting, we get out the polish, clean the top of the refrigerator, and even check for dust bunnies that have wandered to the corner under the bed. That's a fine metaphor for what we need to do with our souls.

Advent is the time to check the dark recesses for thoughts and actions that indicate we're less than ready to meet Christ face to face. Advent is the time to sweep away the cobwebs and put our inner house in order, knowing that Christ is on his way.

Maybe in the midst of cooking and cleaning the house we live in, we can find the time for prayer and reconciliation so that when he comes, we can stand before him with doors open wide in welcome. +

Advent is the time to put our inner house in order.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs.

2 Peter 3:8-14

The Lord...is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish.

Mark 1:1-8

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way."

A Word From Pope Francis

Isaiah's invitation must resound in our hearts: "Comfort, comfort my people" (40:1) and this must lead to mission. We must find the Lord who consoles us, and go to console the people of God....People today certainly need words, but most of all they need us to bear witness to the mercy and tenderness of the Lord, which... rekindles hope, and attracts people toward the good.

—Mass with seminarians, novices, and those discerning their vocation, July 7, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What distractions am I setting aside to make this Advent time like my little wedding preparation?
- The Church invites me to a special time of repentance, fasting, and almsgiving. How is it going?



The Christian Consumer— a Contradiction?

By Jim and Susan Vogt

Bottled water, home computers, and cell phones. Today, most of us take these items for granted, and they can make life easier. However, with more choices and conveniences also come complexities and moral dilemmas. How can things so helpful be bad, we ask?

Bottled water was once a traveler's safeguard against impure water or sometimes a lifesaver in areas where the tap water is not safe. But tap water in U.S. municipalities generally meets higher standards and eliminates the waste of throwaways. Sure, water is an improvement over soda to quench a thirst, but is it so difficult to put safe tap water into a reusable container?

Home computers—love them when they work, curse them when they crash or introduce a virus. And that doesn't include separating beneficial content from pornography or marketing scams that computers bring into our homes.

Yes, a cell phone is a wonderful safety device when the car breaks down. Yes, it helps family members keep in touch. And yes, it causes auto accidents, distracts from face-to-face conversations, and annoys bystanders.

How did we function without technological conveniences? In some ways better and in others worse. Certainly a lot of paper was used on snail mail, and before cell phones parents

couldn't always find their teenagers. The point is not that we should discard all conveniences, but that we should use modern technology wisely and not buy just because we can.

Guard Against Greed

These are subjective, thorny lifestyle decisions. Although Jesus isn't posted at the checkout lane prompting us on the morality of our purchases, he does speak to us through Scripture. He said, "Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Matthew 6:26). And remember that disturbing passage about the rich man whom Jesus told, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor" (Matthew 19:21).

How do we take these challenges? To say they are only metaphors that are unrealistic for today seems intellectually dishonest. Likewise, to quit our jobs, sell our possessions, and move to Haiti seems irresponsible. After all, we might have a family to support, a job that benefits society, and people who depend on us.

Living Simply

We propose focusing on the spirit of Jesus' words and keeping close enough to the poor to let them check our conscience for rationalization.

- Travel light through life. Free your household of unnecessary possessions. We asked ourselves whether we really needed cable TV, two cars, three cell phones, and four computers. We didn't. It's good for our souls, psyches, and pocketbooks to live with less.
- Evaluate the impact of purchases on God's creation. How much of the earth's resources are used in overpackaging? A hybrid car may cost more, but it puts less stress on the earth's resources. Driving less is even better, and walking makes gym memberships less necessary.
- Resist advertising. Realize that the goal of marketing is to persuade us to spend our way to happiness. Remember the birds in the sky? True happiness comes from the contentment of a life well-lived in harmony with God's design, not by accumulating goods.
- Recover values like frugality. It comes naturally to some but not others. To paraphrase Jesus' words to the rich man, consider that what we own is probably more than we need. Take steps to let go.

We should go beyond thinking our worth is measured by how much we consume and make our lifestyle consistent with the spirit of the Gospels. +



Lord, you are the compassion of God in the world. You never forget any of your people. Give me the courage to be the compassion of God for others.

From Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 11-16

- Mon. Advent Weekday:
Is 35:1-10 / Lk 5:17-26
- Tue. Our Lady of Guadalupe: Zec 2:14-17
or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab /
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Wed. St. Lucy: Is 40:25-31 / Mt 11:28-30

- Thu. St. John of the Cross:
Is 41:13-20 / Mt 11:11-15
- Fri. Advent Weekday:
Is 48:17-19 / Mt 11:16-19
- Sat. Advent Weekday:
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13