



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, December 24, 2017
Fourth 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 Lo, How A Rose BB 90
 Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior
 Communion: The Body Of Christ (Choir / Cantor)
 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
 BB 38

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 Servant Song BB 377
 Each Winter As The Year Grows
 Older (Choir)

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace
 Communion: Remember Your Love BB 662
 Holy Is Your Name (Choir)

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63



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>December 8, 2017</u>	
Immaculate Conception	\$1,045.00
<u>December 10, 2017</u>	
Offertory	\$6,127.75
Retired Religious Fund	\$2,153.00
<u>December 17, 2017</u>	
Offertory	\$7,187.05
Fuel	\$2,403.77

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 24, 2017 No Second Collection
 December 25, 2017 Christmas



**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 DEADLINE

Due to the New Year's holiday, the **January 7, 2018 bulletin** will have to be submitted early.

The deadline for the **January 7** bulletin is at **12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 27.**

Thank you for your understanding!



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

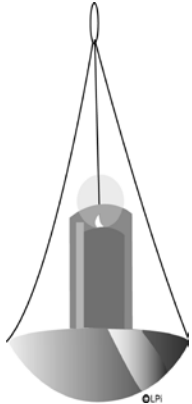
Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow 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.



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse** by Elaine Kelcourse

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Mary Coltin** by Colleen and Mark Hammond

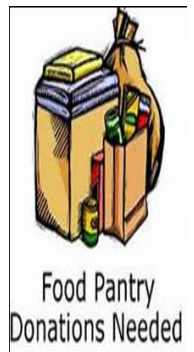
AMAZON SMILE

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.

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**.

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

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 24
10:00 AM NO Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM NO RCIA *Plaistow*

Monday, December 25
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26
NO DAILY MASS
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27
7:00 PM NO Reader Scripture Share *Plaistow*

Thursday, December 28
NO ADORATION
NO INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Saturday, December 30
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, December 31
10:00 AM NO Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM RCIA

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, December 23 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
4:00 PM Donald King by Ann Marie and Joe Sheehan
Plaistow

Sunday, December 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
8:00 AM Liz Shirley by the Stanley Family
Newton
10:00 AM Susan Sible Peck by Kathleen White and family
Plaistow
Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy – People of the Parish
Plaistow
6:30 PM Christmas Eve Liturgy – People of the Parish
Newton

Monday, December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
9:00 AM Christmas Day Liturgy – People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, December 26 ~ Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
No Mass

Wednesday, December 27 ~ John, Apostle & Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
6:30 PM For Michael and his recovery
Plaistow

Thursday, December 28 ~ The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for a Blessing Received
Newton

Friday, December 29 ~ Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
No Mass

Saturday, December 30 ~ Sixth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord
1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40 (Day)
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40 (Vigil)
4:00 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Sunday, December 31 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary And Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40 (Day)
8:00 AM Deb Caron by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton
10:00 AM Robert and Rachael Huberdeau by Paula and Stephen Fournier
Plaistow
Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Helen Elizabeth DeRoche and Lewis Gould, Sr. by the DeRoche and Gould families

Monday, January 1, 2018
Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
9:00 AM Lea Roberts by her husband, Paul
Newton



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Mary Alice Sceggell



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, January 17 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

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

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

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 was 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.

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO Adoration during the week before and the week of Christmas.

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:

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.

MARRIED COUPLES DAY OF ENRICHMENT

January 13, 2018

St. Peter Church, Auturn, NH

\$30 per couple includes all day seminar and lunch

Space is limited to first 25 couples – register early and reserve your spot! For more information, contact Scott or Martha at ScottnMartha@comcast.net or register online at www.VitaNova.org.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

✠ 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 ✂

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Parish Office will be closed on:

Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Monday, January 1

**ANNUAL VITA NOVA
MEN'S RETREAT**

Come to the well.....and thirst no more

January 5-7, 2018

The Retreat will be led by Fr. Chris Martel beginning on Friday evening and concluding with Sunday lunch

For more information or to register, go to:
www.vitanova.org

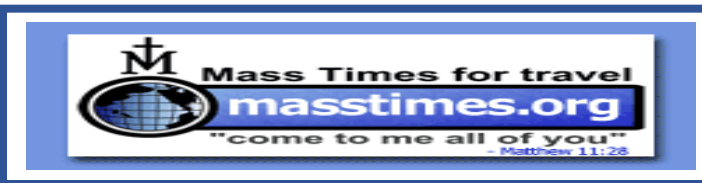
IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP!

What's the best thing about camp? For kids, it's all the awesome activities they can do and the friends they make. For parents, it's seeing their kids gain confidence, get unplugged, and blossom under the careful guidance of great counselors.

At Camp Bernadette for girls and Camp Fatima for boys, we offer it all: Incredible outdoor activities such as canoeing, fishing, archery and rock climbing; Arts and crafts to spark imagination and creativity; Camp life designed to create a sense of belonging and foster friendships among campers from all across the country; Positive, energetic, experienced counselors; Gorgeous lakefront New Hampshire locations.

Both Camps are now accepting registrations for the 2018 summer season for 2-week overnight sessions for children ages 6-15.

To register, or for more information, call 603-364-5851.



SURVEY FOR YOUTH

The Vatican recently launched a website and survey for youth and young adults related to the 15th Ordinary Synod of Bishops on *Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment*. You can find the survey on the website at <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey>.

Responses go directly and confidentially to the Vatican Synod Office. Any person between the ages of 16 and 29 is invited to participate. **The deadline for the survey is December 31, 2017.**

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.

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.**

GIVING TREES



Thanks to all who took ornaments from the Giving Tree this year. You have helped to make the Christmas season brighter for children of the community and for many people who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Find Us Ready

Good and gracious God,
who sent the angel Gabriel to announce the
gift of your Son,
your love for us has no limits and
endures forever.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ,
eliminate within us all sin and fear,
giving us pure hearts to receive him.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with your grace,

just as Mary was so filled,
and find us ready to stand in your presence
to serve you.

Keep us faithful to the covenant you made
with our ancestors.
May your joy saturate our beings as we go
forth proclaiming your salvation,
so that, on that final day, we will forever sing
your goodness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

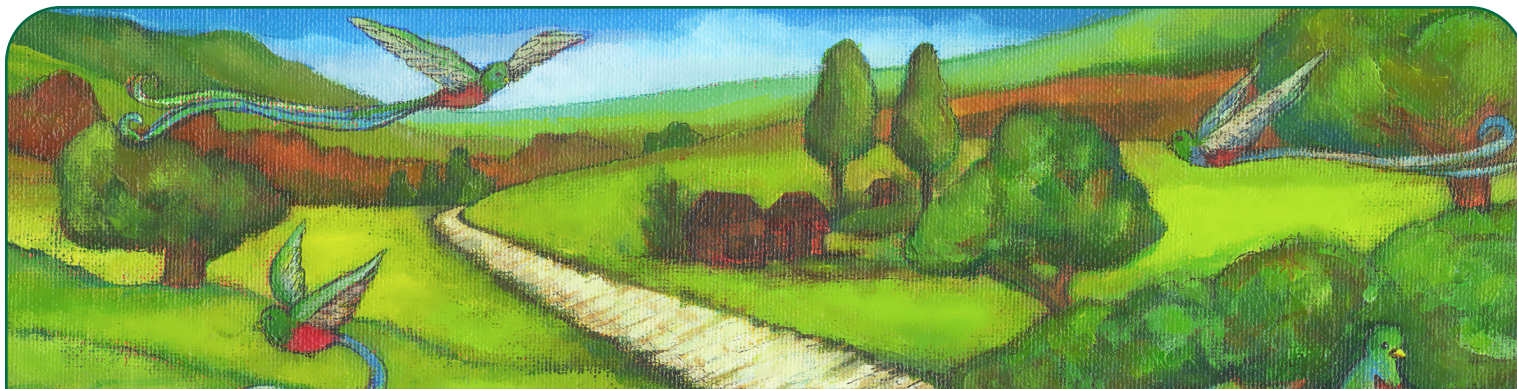
Mystery Revealed

Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38. The readings proclaimed at the liturgy today invite us to ponder the mystery revealed in the birth of Christ. David wishes to build a proper house for the ark of God. The prophet Nathan reveals that God has a much bigger plan: to establish a house for him. God will build up the nation to prosper until the end of time. Because of the Incarnation, we are heirs to this promise and are members of God's household. As the psalm states, God has made a covenant with his people and we continue the song of praise and thanksgiving.

This promise cannot be fulfilled without Mary's yes. Since the time of the fall, all creation has waited for Mary. God chose her to bear his Son, the Messiah who establishes

the Reign of God. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to give up everything (die to self) for another, especially for God's will? Here is a young woman whose whole life changes when she humbly says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Tomorrow, the Christian world celebrates the birth of Jesus. The season of Christmas, challenges us to grow deeper in faith. Jesus reveals the Father's love and mercy. At every liturgy, the Church celebrates this mystery and receives the presence of God's own Son. We are to become what we receive—the Body of Christ. Take time today to reflect on your yes and see in what ways God has revealed himself to you.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 25

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Today's psalm captures the importance of this solemnity in the life of the world. The psalmist sings a song of praise for the mighty deeds God has done. As Christians, we celebrate God's gift of the Incarnation, which has made salvation known; all creation blesses God's holy name. During dinner tonight, read and reflect on the story of Christ's birth. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.*

Tuesday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be a martyr? In his martyrdom, Stephen teaches us to remain fervent and faithful in our commitment to Christ. Although it is not always easy to keep our baptismal promises, we must trust, as Jesus says, that the Spirit will speak through us. Practicing a regular prayer life will help us remain faithful. Take time today to pray for those who continue to be persecuted for their faith; research one modern martyr. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22.*

Wednesday, December 27

St. John

The word *witness* is a good summary for the readings today. Because of the encounter that the disciples and Mary Magdalene had with Christ, they were compelled to share the Word of life. John is willing to give his life for Christ. In Baptism, each of us is intimately woven into the life of God and therefore, we, like the early disciples, must witness to our encounter with the Risen Christ. Everything we are and do must proclaim Christ, who is life. Like John, take time today to write your "gospel," the story of your encounter with Christ. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a and 2-8.*

Thursday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Today the Church commemorates the life of those children who were executed by Herod. During this short Christmas cycle, martyrdom is highlighted, as the feasts of Sts. Stephen and John are also celebrated. In the Middle Ages, these early martyrs were known as companions of Christ. Their stories invite us to reflect on the effect of the Incarnation. Christ is the one who frees us from all bondage and saves us from death. Martyrdom is a profession of deep faith in Christ. Let your prayer today be for all who have been executed for the sake of Christ. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd and 8; Matthew 2:13-18.*

Friday, December 29

Light

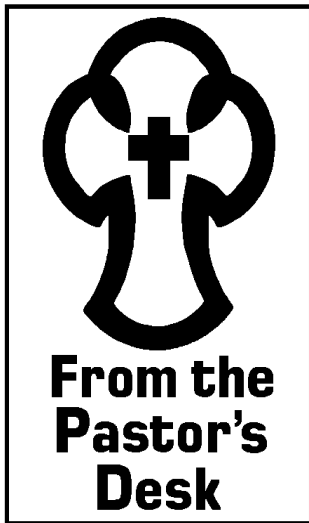
The birth of Christ revealed God's greatest gift to the universe. He truly is the Light of the World, the one who brings us out of darkness. John tells us that those who love and remain in love will have the light. Simeon, in the Gospel, tells us that Jesus is the light that will reveal God's love and mercy to the world. At Baptism, each of us received a lighted candle to remind us that Christ's light is in us, and that we are called to share that light in acts of love. Light your baptismal candle today. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35.*

Saturday, December 30

God's Will

"Do not love the world or the things in the world" is a key message in today's First Reading. John reminds us that we know God and God is within us. Yet we are often enticed by the ideals of this world, and we can easily be misdirected. We must listen to the voice of love within us. God calls us to share the Good News and live according to his will. Listening in prayer helps us remain confident in our vocation. Make a list of those times you have ignored God and then offer them in prayer. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40.*





CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!! Or hadn't you heard?.....

With the Christmas holiday feast upon us, a few planning reminders for the "big day..."

Please note that the last opportunity for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** before Christmas is Saturday, December 23 beginning at 3:00 PM at Plaistow.

The Parish Office will be closed **Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26**. Parish Offices will re-open for business on **Wednesday, December 27 at 8:30 am**. Parish Offices will be closed on **January 1**. We will re-open for business on **Tuesday, January 2 at 8:30 am**.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year is December 24. The regular Liturgical schedule for the Parish is in effect for the weekend of December 23-24.

The Liturgies for the **Solemnity of Christmas** begin with the Vigil Liturgies celebrated on **December 24 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and at 6:30 PM in Newton**. On December 25, Christmas Day, we will celebrate Liturgy at **9:00 am in Newton**. Christmas is a Solemnity and is **always** a holy day of obligation for all Catholics.

As you make your family plans for Christmas Mass, please remember that the 4:00 Vigil Liturgy on **December 24** tends to be *very* well attended. If you are coming to the 4:00 PM Liturgy, *please plan to arrive early*. If your holiday plans allow for any changes, consider the Vigil at 6:30 PM in Newton, or Christmas morning 9:00 am in Newton. Please note that there is no public Evening Prayer on December 25, and no morning Liturgy at Plaistow in Tuesday, December 26.



The regular liturgical schedule for the Parish will be observed on the weekend of **December 30-31**. The Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Θεοτόκος - the Mother of God - **a holy day of obligation** – will be celebrated at a **Vigil Liturgy at Plaistow at 6:30 PM on Sunday, December 31, and on January 1 at 9:00 am in Newton**. There is no public Evening Prayer on January 1.

January 7 is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. We will follow our usual Sunday Liturgy schedule, and we will gather to sing Christmas Evening Prayer on **Sunday, January 7** at 6:00 PM in Newton.

The Christmas season will close early this year with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on **Monday, January 10**. Liturgy that day will be as usual in Newton at 8:00 am.

**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 3:00 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 9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (*A Holy Day of Obligation*) (Newton)

Saturday, January 6 3:00 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)

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In Sunday's Gospel, the angel Gabriel disturbs Mary with the words, "The Lord is with you. You have found favor with God." Mary wonders what those words mean. She wonders, too, how she can become a mother since she is still a virgin. Mary's yes to God is an act of faith. The Gospel is also an invitation to us all to say yes to God's call and to show by our lives that, in Jesus, God becomes Emmanuel—God with us.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Encourage your child to tell the family what he or she has learned about Christmas. Talk about God asking Mary to become Jesus' mother. Talk about how Mary said yes to God. Remind the children that because Mary said yes to God, God is with us all the time. Pray the Hail Mary together.

Promise (Grades K-1): Christmas is just days away, and your child can hardly wait for the day to come. Ask your child to share with the family the story of the angel coming to Mary to invite her to be the mother of Jesus. Talk about how important it is to say yes to God by being loving and kind and unselfish.

Good News (Grades 2-3): During this week's class, your child learned about God's choice of Mary to be Jesus' mother and her response to God. Talk about one lesson we can learn from Mary: always say yes to God. Ask your child to share with the family the little play they performed in class that was a telling of the Christmas story in the Huron Native American tradition. Pray the Hail Mary together.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class this week, the children recognized ways they can share the Good News of Jesus' birth with others. They also learned the importance of Mary's faith in God and her willingness to say yes when she was asked to become the mother of Jesus. Ask your child to share with the family God's promise to the house of King David.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your young person learned about the value of serving others. Ask your son or daughter to share with the family the comic from this week's lesson, "The Reluctant Volunteer." Talk about volunteer work that members of your family do. Ask: How does volunteer work help us understand the needs and trials of others? How does volunteering help us identify with people who really need help?

Pray Together

When Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the Mother of God, Mary said yes. Spend a few moments as a family asking God to give each member the courage to always say yes to God. Pray that the way you live shows that, in Jesus, God is always with us.

✠ AROUND THE PARISH & 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.



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

SANCTUARY CANDLES



The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00.

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.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 24, 2017

Welcoming Our Lord

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the whole of the New Testament, Mary appears only a handful of times. She is, of course, present at the birth of Jesus and at his death. She comes looking for her son in the Temple when he's twelve and again when he's preaching. She lets him know that the time has come for his first miracle when he's in Cana.

She has more to say in this story of the annunciation than in any of the others, and in this one story we get more than a glimpse of the woman she would become in our memory—called on by

millions, revered by all—an example of unparalleled obedience and openness to the movement of God in her life.

It strikes me that, along with being the Mother of God (the Orthodox Church uses the word *theotokos*, which means “God-bearer”), Mary is our example of the best response to the presence of God. We let him in; we show God hospitality in our very being; we allow God to change our lives in ways we cannot even imagine yet.

The reality for most of us, though, is that in many times and places we have had the chance to welcome God in. Instead, we've shut God out because we thought something else was more important. Maybe it was power or wealth. Perhaps God was challenging us to move on a particular path, and we didn't want to.

Maybe our question for the week is, *what would happen if I do as God asks?*

On this Christmas Eve, let us practice saying yes to God—for in doing this, we honor the mother of us all. +

Sunday Readings

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

“I was with you wherever you went, and I cut down all your enemies before you.”

Romans 16:25–27

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 1:26–38

“Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’”

*By being open to Jesus,
we honor our Mother.*

A Word From Pope Francis

[Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem]...were alone, in a strange land, just the three of them. Then...people began to appear: shepherds, people just like them who had to leave their homes to find better opportunities for their families....When they heard that Jesus had been born, they went to see him. They became neighbors....a family to Mary and Joseph, the family of Jesus. This is what happens when Jesus comes into our lives....He makes us neighbors.

—Address in
Bañado Norte,
a Paraguay slum,
July 12, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Is giving myself to God in prayer a way to let him accomplish his dreams in me?
- How can I offer hospitality in my heart, my home, my work, and my Church so that others can encounter God's love?



Elected By God

By Richard Rohr, OFM

God is always selecting people in the Bible, but in disconcerting ways. There seems to be no previous preparation or proven holiness—often not even willingness among those specially chosen.

Biblical chosenness does not seem to mean that we are anything special; instead, it reminds us of the specialness all creatures share. It is seldom saying we are especially good; it is always saying God is good. It is never saying that we are inherently qualified for chosenness, but says that God wants to give us an experience of unearned chosenness or “beloved” status. That way we can know what chosenness really feels like, and can better communicate that experience to others.

Starting with the Chosen People themselves, beloved status prepares them to communicate it to the whole world. God chose the Jews not because he loved them better than anybody, but to lead them through a forty-year training exercise so they could be a transformative template that would challenge all religion in every age.

Yet the history of religion is that most of us refuse to go on the full journey and, instead, stay deadlocked at early-stage superiority. We somehow believe that we are chosen, right, saved. But often, this belief does not progress into a generative

journey for others—a sympathy for others’ journeys or belief in the beauty of other religions.

Biblical election is an inclusive chosenness because it is dealing with an infinite God in whom all things cohere. Egocentric chosenness is always exclusive and arrogant, as if there wasn’t enough to go around.

Mary: Archetype of Chosenness

All the chosen figures I know from the Bible—Moses, Jacob, Joseph, Esther, Judith, Peter, Paul—are flawed individuals unprepared for God’s call. They are chosen in their lowliness. There is only one case where the pattern is seemingly different, although it is not really different as much as distilled, concise, and utterly clear.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the archetype of chosenness. The Greek word that is used when Gabriel visits Mary (Luke 1:29) is a rare verb form that could be translated: “Hail, Chosenness Itself!” Favor says much more about the one doing the favoring than the one receiving the favor. All we can do is receive chosenness. All we can do is accept that we are accepted, which is harder than we think! This becomes the central biblical theme of grace.

Ideal Vessel

Until Mary, most of the central chosen

Bible figures were men. In Mary we have the ideal vessel, who personifies the state of perfectly received favor from God. There is nothing in the biblical text that says she was worthy, prepared, or had earned this favor. It is given by God, and her glory is that she accepts being used as a “handmaid.”

Mary knows her Jewish tradition, and knows how God works. She knows how Yahweh, the God of Israel, consistently chooses an enslaved race, forgotten sons, barren women, and unprepared laypeople so they can revel in their totally gratuitous election. And God gets all the glory! Mary knows that it is always a statement of God’s goodness, not ours. As some later mystics put it, it is almost as if God was waiting for a perfectly receptive bride—and God found her in Mary of Nazareth. She receives the Divine Kiss, and swoons in gratitude and fertility: Jesus. That is all. That is everything.

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Luke 1:49) becomes her motto. Mary looked at God’s goodness and refused to be preoccupied with her own. +

PRAYER

Lord, you have called us to be your instruments of peace and reconciliation in the world. Give me the courage to make peace with those who have hurt me and caused me pain.

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 25-30

Mon. Christmas: Is 52:7–10 /
Heb 1:1–6 / Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14
Tue. St. Stephen: Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 /
Mt 10:17–22
Wed. St. John: 1 Jn 1:1–4 / Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Thu. The Holy Innocents:
1 Jn 1:5–2:2 / Mt 2:13–18
Fri. Octave of Christmas:
1 Jn 2:3–11 / Lk 2:22–35
Sat. Octave of Christmas:
1 Jn 2:12–17 / Lk 2:36–40

Bringing Home
the Word 
December 24, 2017

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