

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, June 3, 2018
The Most Holy Body
And Blood Of Christ

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: O God, Almighty Father BB 711

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Preparation Song Of The Body Of Christ BB 333

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Take And Eat BB 361
 I Received The Living God BB 327

Recessional: Let All Things Now Living BB 588

10:00 AM

Gathering: Table Of Plenty BB 310

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 116)

(Psalm Response not available at time of printing)

Preparation God's Holy Gifts BB 343
 Our Blessing Cup BB 363

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion: The Supper Of The Lord BB 354
 One Bread, One Body BB 340

Recessional: Canticle Of The Sun BB 426

✠ 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!

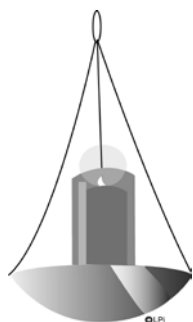
COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
MAY 20 & 27, 2018
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

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

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| June 3, 2018 | Property Management |
| June 10, 2018 | No Second Collection |
| June 17, 2018 | Fuel |
| June 24, 2018 | Works of the Holy Father |
| July 1, 2018 | Property Management |



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

The Marciano Family

by Marci Marciano

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Paul O'Leary

By Colleen and Mark Hammond



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

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/weekly	3% Commitment annually/weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

the Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday, June 13, 2018.**



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

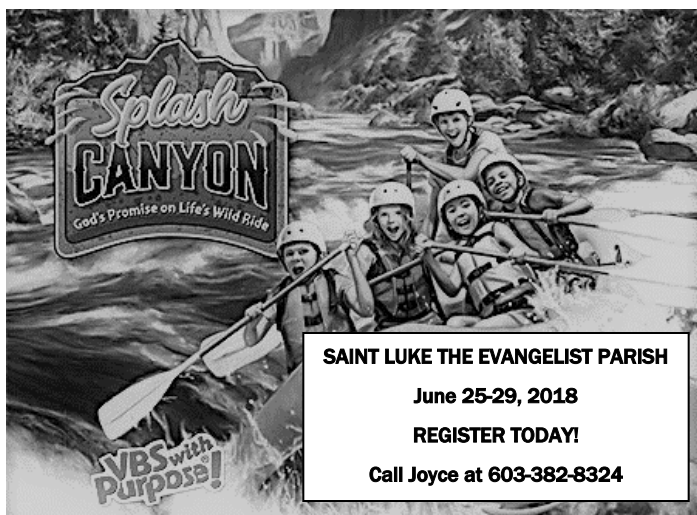
Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow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



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

June 25-29, 2018

REGISTER TODAY!

Call Joyce at 603-382-8324

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

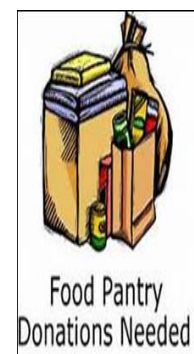
Volunteers needed: We're getting ready for a great Splash Canyon VBS which will take place the **week of June 25-29! Starting on June 3**, Volunteer Meetings will take place on **Sundays** at 9:00 AM in the Plaistow Church Hall before the 10:00 AM Liturgy. Come preview the Program and join the team!

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.

**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 SPRING...

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

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, June 3
11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*

Monday, June 4
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Wednesday, June 6
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, June 7
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, June 9
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*



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.

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

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

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, June 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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, June 2 ~ Vigil /Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

4:00 PM Joe, Lucy, and Patrick Zakiewicz
by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, June 3 ~ Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

8:00 AM Donna Lessard by Brian and Marie Lessard
Newton
10:00 AM Lillian Murphy (18th Anniversary)
by her daughter, Carole
Plaistow

Monday, June 4 ~ Weekday
2 Pt 1:2-7; Mk 12:1-12

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, June 5 ~ Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 6 ~ Norbert, Bishop
2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27

6:30 PM Robert Giallongo
by Joseph and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, June 7 ~ Weekday
2 Tm 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, June 8 ~ The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Eph 3:8-12, 14-19; Jn 19:31-37
No Mass

Saturday, June 9 ~ Immaculate Heart of Mary
2 Tm 4:1-18; Lk 2:41-51 (Day)

Gn 3:9-15; 2 Cor 4:13—5:1; Mk 3:20-35 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Robert Cooper (15th Anniversary) by his parents
Plaistow

Sunday, June 10 ~ Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gn 3:9-15; 2 Cor 4:13—5:1; Mk 3:20-35

8:00 AM Frank Verdillo (Birthday Remembrance)
by his family
Newton
10:00 AM Cynthia Lueders (1st Anniversary)
by Carole Lueders
Plaistow

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 ✧

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, July 1, 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.

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.

**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.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT

"TURNING TOWARD JOY"

Sacred Heart Parish in Manchester, NH is offering a retreat for women entitled "Turning Towards Joy" on **Saturday, June 9 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

Joy has been described as "the most infallible sign of the presence of God." (Teilhard de Chardin) This retreat day is an invitation to deepen our joy as we turn afresh to God's loving presence in the midst of the challenges in our world and our personal lives. Both inspiring and practical, this retreat will be a time for our hearts to be touched by His Heart as we turn towards joy. The speaker will be Patricia Livingston, best known for her touching, story-telling style of illuminating the presence of God in everyday life.

A complimentary breakfast and light lunch will be served. \$10 free-will offering.

To register, or for more information, call the parish office at 603-625-9525.

✧ 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	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

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

FREE PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER

A parishioner has a portable air conditioner that she would like to give away. It has only been used twice. You can wheel it from room to room and vent it out the window. If you are interested, call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.



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.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL

June 6, 2018

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in Salem will host "Strategies for Success in High School" for students currently in grades 5 to 7. The program will provide advice and tips on what students can do while in junior high to help them get into their high school of choice and succeed while there. Plans include: panel of recent St. Joe's graduates who will answer questions and share their lessons learned so far in high school; St. Joe's teachers will share suggestions for strengthening skills needed to succeed in junior high and high school; admissions representatives from Central Catholic, PMA-Methuen, and Trinity-Manchester will share what they look for in candidates and tips on how to gain admittance into their schools. To register, or if you have questions, contact Mrs. Latino, Director of Enrollment, at 603-893-6811 x 19 or clatino@sircs.com.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Rockingham VNA & Hospice

The Rockingham VNA & Hospice offers Bereavement Support Groups at the Hospice offices, 137 Epping Road, Exeter. These groups are free to the public, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Bereavement Services Coordinator, at 603-772-2981.

Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling - any age, any cause. Monthly support meetings are held at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Newburyport, MA on the fourth Monday of the month. For more information, contact Barbara at 617-410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.



BLESSING OF FATHERS

There will be a special blessing of fathers at all Masses on **Father's Day Weekend, June 16 & 17, 2018**

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The annual "Baby Bottle Campaign" for the Pregnancy Care Center **begins on the weekend of June 16-17**. The Pregnancy Care Center is a Christ-centered ministry offering life-affirming services designed to empower women and men to make informed decisions about unexpected pregnancy, abstinence education, and recover from post-abortion trauma. These services are free and confidential. Please pick up a bottle and fill it with coins, bills or checks (made payable to PPC). **Return them by the weekend of July 7-8.**



CYCLE FOR SHELTER

To Benefit Emmaus House

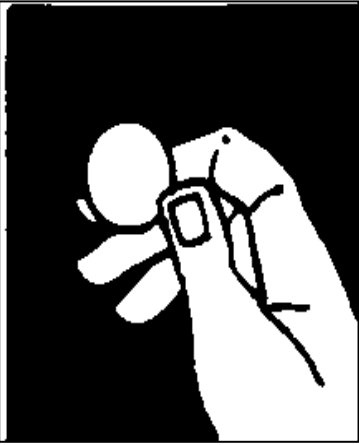
The 30th Annual Cycle for Shelter to benefit Emmaus House will be held at Northern Essex Community College on **Sunday, July 22, 2018**. Cyclists can ride a 20-mile, 40-mile, 62-mile, or 100-mile scenic route that will take them through Haverhill, MA up to the seacoast of New Hampshire, and south through the North Shore of Massachusetts. Proceeds from this even benefit Emmaus, a non-profit housing and human services organization in Haverhill, MA that serves homeless and formerly homeless families and single adults. For more information, please call 978-241-3425, email cycle@emmausinc.org, or visit www.emmausinc.org.

QUO VADIS DAYS

AUGUST 6-10, 2018 ~ Young Men Ages 14-18

Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! You are invited to attend the first annual Quo Vadis Days camp to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. Quo Vadis Days is an overnight camp led by priests and seminarians of the diocese and includes a full schedule of hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, and games, daily Mass and prayer, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other. For more information, please visit www.liveinblackandwhite.com.

OUR COMMUNION: OUR PEACE AND OUR PROMISE



In our life together as Catholic Christians, we rejoice in the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but Christ is especially present when we gather for worship. The primary day for gathering is Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. When we come together for Sunday Liturgy, we believe as Catholics that Jesus is “truly present” in the Word, in the Sacrament, in the gathered Assembly and in the person of the priest.

Jesus tells us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. We must avoid an overly literalistic understanding of these words. We do not literally eat flesh or drink blood. Jesus’ command to eat his body and drink his blood can only make sense if we understand the words body and blood as designating the whole person, the real glorified Christ as he exists today in our midst.

How do we approach this great moment? It should be with reverence and with the knowledge that the Lord calls each of us - and all of us as a community - to enter into the mystery of the Lord’s dying and rising. A few things are important about our reception of communion:

The Church calls us to fast from all food and drink at least one hour before receiving. This is more of a spiritual exercise than an ascetical practice. When fasting, our minds, bodies and spirits are better prepared to receive the gifts God gives us.

We all “receive” communion from the hands of another.

“Taking” communion is not part of the Catholic perspective on the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus feeds us... we are needy and unworthy. That feeding comes through the ministry of another of our brothers or sisters. The Bishops of the United States have authorized two methods of receiving communion under the form of the host: on the tongue, or in the hand. One should determine one’s preference, and after a bow of the head in reverence to the sacred Host, respond “Amen,” open the mouth or have a “throne” made with one’s two hands open to receive the Body of the Lord. *The host is then immediately consumed.*

We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but he is especially present when we gather for worship.

How do we approach this great moment?

In the Diocese of Manchester, our Bishop has made it clear that a sign of adoration before receiving the Eucharist is a wonderful way of showing reverence and awe before the Holy Gifts God gives to us. ***A simple bow of the head is indicated in the 2001 General Instruction of the Roman Missal.*** One then receives the Eucharist standing, joined in procession with the whole Assembly gathered - in communion with the Church. Any gestures or actions which detract from this communion are distracting and a serious sign of dis-union with the Assembly gathered and praying together.

Continued on next page...

The assembly is encouraged by the Church to receive from the cup, after having the cup withdrawn for centuries. This in no way detracts from the belief that the “whole Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity” is present in either element of the Eucharist. The Church’s return to a common cup follows the very words of Jesus, “take and eat... take and drink...” and the instructions and admonitions of the great Christian teachers such as Paul of Tarsus and Augustine of Hippo. ***Receiving from the cup means first bowing one’s head in a gesture of adoration, responding “Amen” to the minister, and then drinking from the cup.***

There is no scientific evidence at all of any person “catching something” from this act. In fact, you are more likely to catch cold from sitting next to a family member at home than from sharing in the cup at communion time. ***Receiving under both forms is a fuller and better sign of our participation in the Eucharistic action. Eating and drinking fulfills in the best way possible the commands of the Lord Jesus.***



Receiving from the cup means just that. Self-intinction (dipping the host into the cup yourself) is not part of our observance and breaks the communal sharing of the Eucharist in a serious way. While intinction is used in some places, it is not a preferred way of receiving communion according to our U.S. Bishops, and **NEVER** in the Catholic Church is a communicant allowed to complete this action on his or her own. ***We receive communion as a holy gift from God.*** Our conduct in receiving should show how important we believe that gift to be.

Children who are not of the age to receive (7 by law in the Church) should not receive communion. This means that parents have to keep an eye on little ones - while still respecting their desire to “join the procession.” **DO bring up children in the communion procession,** and have them cross their arms over their chest, and the priest or minister of communion will simply bless them. ***Parents should never “share” communion they have received with their young children.*** While on the surface a pious act, it breaks up the unity supposed by the sharing of the Eucharist. When they have reached the proper age and are prepared, children are admitted to communion for the first time. That day is a highlight in the lives of many a Catholic boy and girl, as well it should be.

To eat Jesus’ body and drink His blood is to enter into a true encounter with the person of Jesus. This is the full meaning of the Eucharist. It is a dynamic meeting with the Risen One. But it is not a solitary experience. We do not come to the Eucharist simply as isolated individuals, but rather as persons who are members of a community, as persons who are the Body of Christ. The Eucharist is not just Jesus with me, but Jesus with us, and all of us with one another. And we are not together hiding from the world: We are Christ's body in the world God created, every day, every hour of our lives.

In a word, Jesus’ presence is not static: He is not satisfied just to be there. He is there to act dynamically in order to change our lives. In the Eucharist we meet Christ, and are challenged by his presence in the assembly of his people. He is present to make us whole people. He is there to bring harmony and peace into our lives, our families, our country, and our world. He comes to make us experience ourselves as his body in the world.

We receive communion as a holy gift from God....



Bringing Home the Word

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ | June 3, 2018

Jesus' Gift of Life

By Janel Esker

I'm a proud, regular blood donor. I don't particularly enjoy needles or the sight of blood, but my mother educated me at a young age that donating blood is one of the most important things you can do to help people. For less than an hour of your time, a momentary stick, and sugar-laden goodies afterward, you can provide a gift that is unequalled in significance—the life-giving force of blood. Truly, donating blood is one of the most prolife actions you can take.

Today we take time to particularly recognize the gift of life we receive each week at the eucharistic table. Jesus is, in

a way, the ultimate blood donor. He gives us all of himself—Body and Blood, the fullness of his life—in our eucharistic meal. Just as blood donations can sustain life for the human family, Jesus' gift of his Body and Blood is our sustaining spiritual life force, a symbol of the covenant between God and humanity that is given to us freely and has no equal.

Though I give blood regularly, I am given a reminder nudge by my blood center after the eight-week waiting period. We come to the eucharistic table each week, but each time we step forward do we remember how significant this gift is? As we receive, are we aware of Jesus' power within us?

This solemnity gives us that reminder to stay attentive to and grateful for God's gift of the Eucharist. +

Sunday Readings

Exodus 24:3-8

[Moses said,] "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you."

Hebrews 9:11-15

...He is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

[Jesus said,] "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

A Word From Pope Francis

The Lord breaks his Body and pours out his Blood for all. Truly no division can withstand this sacrifice of communion; only the attitude of falsehood, of complicity with the evil one, can exclude one from it. No other indefensible gap can withstand the power of this broken Bread and this shed Blood.

—General audience,
November 11, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How well do I prepare my heart and mind to receive Jesus in the Eucharist?
- Do I take time to visit him in the tabernacle or adoration to show him my love and gratitude?



The Sacraments— and More

By Thomas H. Groome

My mother-in-law had a lovely habit, upon seeing something beautiful, of saying: “I give you that.” The first time it happened to me we were overlooking a harbor at sunset. When she said, “I give you that, Tom,” I felt it was all mine, and I experienced it as total gift. Maryanne, God rest her soul, had a sacramental consciousness. She recognized “the more” in the everyday.

We Catholics tend to associate *sacrament* with the seven we celebrate as communities of faith. But we should be conscious of the continuity between the liturgical sacraments and the sacramental-ity of life.

The Catholic principle of sacramental-ity is that God is ever present and that we respond through the ordinary and everyday. As we come “to find God in all things” (St. Ignatius of Loyola) and experience God’s grace daily, we can readily believe that the seven sacraments “make present...the grace that they signify” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1127).

In the early centuries, Christians celebrated many sacred rituals as having sacramental power. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church gradually established seven—baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, holy orders, and matrimony—as our vital sacraments. Because each reflects a central value in Jesus’ ministry, we say that Jesus instituted all seven.

Starting With Baptism

Because baptism begins our initiation into the Church, it’s considered the “first” of the sacraments. Confirmation and Eucharist, then, complete our initiation. Anointing and reconciliation are sacraments of healing, while matrimony and holy orders are sacraments of vocation to serve the community.

While all seven are necessary to the life of the Church, Catholics cherish the Eucharist as the “sacrament of sacraments” (St. Thomas Aquinas). The *Catechism*, echoing Vatican II, describes it as “the source and summit of Christian life” (CCC 1324). Eucharist is our greatest act of thanksgiving and praise to the Father, reoffering the holy sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. In Eucharist, too, we reenact Jesus’ Last Supper with the disciples, so replete with love and peace.

We believe that in doing again what Jesus did at the Last Supper, that “bread and wine...by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the words of Christ, have become the body and blood of Christ” (CCC 1357). So, in receiving holy Communion we encounter the Real Presence.

The Second Vatican Council of 1962-65 revived for Catholics our awareness that the risen Christ is present to the Christian community assembled for worship as the word of God is proclaimed through Scripture. However, “the mode of Christ’s presence under the

Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as ‘the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend’” (CCC 1374).

How and Why

The favored Catholic way to explain *how* Christ is present in the Eucharist is *transubstantiation*. So while the appearance of bread and wine remain, their substance is changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

But as important as *how*, we must remember *why* Jesus is present, and what receiving holy Communion should produce in our lives. He is present as our bread of life to sustain us in daily living as disciples. Eucharist empowers, but also requires our response. Its celebration sends us forth to love and serve the Lord, to live “for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

In their own ways, each sacrament calls and empowers us for such daily discipleship. As we so live, the sacramentality of life and effectiveness of the sacraments become even more important. +



Lord, out of brokenness and weakness you saved my life. Help me to embrace my weakness so I can walk in solidarity with the poor and suffering.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 4-9, 2018

Monday, Weekday:
2 Pt 1:2-7 / Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday, Weekday: St. Boniface:
2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18 / Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12 / Mk 12:18-27

Thursday, Weekday:
2 Tm 2:8-15 / Mk 12:28-34

Friday, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9 / Eph 3:8-12, 14-19 / Jn 19:31-37

Saturday, Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 2 Tm 4:1-8 / Lk 2:41-51

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
June 3, 2018

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