

Saint Luke the Evangelist

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

Discipleship is a lifelong journey.

Lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship with and knowledge of God. A commitment to lifelong faith formation serves to enhance our understanding of Scripture and of our Tradition. It sustains us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Over the past few years, our Pastoral Council, Parish Staff and volunteer Catechists in our Religious Education program have been discussing ways in which our Parish community can grow as a faith family in appreciation of our Catholic faith. In conjunction with our Diocesan Bishop's focus on lifelong faith formation, our Parish will begin this fall in a deliberate way to re-orient all our Parish programs to include all ages in our faith formation programs.

In doing this, we hope to renew our faith community and to capture our distinctive community spirit and to welcome everyone to join together as disciples dedicated to worship, learning and service.

To do this, the Parish will begin a series of initiatives that will focus our attention on Sunday as the Lord's Day, encourage participation in parish life from people of all ages, and invite those on the margins of our community to join us on our journey.



Today we begin by asking your attention to this information, your prayers and your renewed dedication as a Catholic Christian. Please take a few minutes to read about how our Parish can be renewed... and thank you for your continued support of the mission of Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish.

F. Albert

Our effort at renewing our commitment to lifelong faith formation for all ages begins with some principles:

- The centrality of Sunday Liturgy as the “source and summit” of our lives as Christians
- The need to connect worship – learning – service
- The desire to be flexible for family schedules while at the same time providing quality religious education and excellent materials for students, parents and parishioners
- A need to dissociate our religious education programs from the “school system” and the “grade level mentality”
- A clear focus on the meaning of the Catholic experience

To accomplish these goals, the Parish will make the following changes:

- On the weekend of September 2/3, the Liturgical schedule will change as follows: Saturday Vigil Liturgy at Plaistow at 4 PM, Sunday Liturgy at Newton at 8 am and at Plaistow at 10 am
- Religious education for children (pre- kindergarten through 8th grade) will be held on Sunday morning as part of the 10 am Liturgy of Sunday at Plaistow
- Religious education and activities for youth (middle school and high school) will occur immediately after the 10 am Liturgy
- RCIA and adult formation programs will be offered immediately after the 10 am Liturgy
- Adult programs will also continue to be offered during the week as has been our practice
- Parish programs for special seasons (Advent-Christmas; Lent-Easter) will be offered for all Parishioners on Sundays after the 10 am Liturgy in Plaistow
- The Parish will proceed with plans in the Diocese towards the restored order of the Sacraments of Initiation beginning this year with students in grades 8, 9 and 10 (More on this program next week)
- All Sacramental preparation programs will include parents and students working cooperatively. These programs will be offered following the 10 am Liturgy on Sunday
- Parish social activities and service programs will be offered following the 8 am and 10 am Liturgies throughout the year

We will discuss these changes and programs over the next few weeks at Liturgy as a Parish community. Your comments are always welcome.