

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholicstv.org
 Sunday Mass from Notre Dame
catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass
Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org
Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). 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. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

May 2, 2021

Offertory \$7,644.73

COVID VACCINE CONCERNS

Beware of fake news! There are reports that call into question the moral and ethical validity of Covid-19 vaccines. Do not be misled. **Right click** on the following tab and **open** the hyperlink to read what the Bishops of the United States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines:

[Click Here for the Memo](#)



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **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. 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.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

May 9	Property Management
May 13	Ascension
May 16	Catholic Communications



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contribution to the parish for 2020, please call **Jackie** at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

**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 ✠

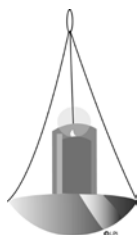
FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

ASCENSION

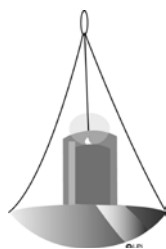
On Thursday, May 13 we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. Masses are as follows:

Wednesday, May 12 in Plaistow at 6:30 PM
Thursday, May 13 in Newton at 8:00 AM



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Mark Hammond
by his Parish family

The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Joshua Alberts
by Jim Edwards



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the
Blessed Mother Icon
at Mary Mother of the Church
will burn in loving memory of

Joan Burge
and
Angelina Antczak
by the Burge family



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 9, 2021.**

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

We appreciate the gracious support of our bulletin by our Advertisers! Please be sure to support our advertisers by calling them first. If you have a business and would like to place an ad, call 1-800-333-3166, ext. 161.

SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Your support of Catholic Charities NH is a gift of hope and healing for our New Hampshire neighbors in crisis. This includes the hundreds of seniors that are served through the CareGivers and Monadnock at Home programs, many who are facing increased isolation, food insecurity, and financial distress in these challenging times. Your support helps fund food deliveries, rides to medical appointments, and invaluable emotional connections, helping them know they are loved, valued, and truly not alone. You can make a gift by going to www.cc-nh.org/everything.

EVICTED & EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know are facing eviction or need emergency rental assistance, help is available. Please call Catholic Charities at 603-889-9431.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels). Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

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.amazon-smile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, May 12
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, May 13
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, May 15
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs, with all precautions, as restrictions ease.

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

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.



FEED THE
HUNGRY

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal 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. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, May 8 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
4:00 PM Chucky Kondrat by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, May 9 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
8:00 AM Joan Burge and Angelina Antczak
by the Burge family
Newton
10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, May 10 ~ Damien de Veuster, Priest
Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a
8:00 AM The Intentions of Leo Metcalf by his family
Newton

Tuesday, May 11 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
8:00 AM Connie Lawson by Marjorie Knowles
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 12 ~ Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs;
Pancras, Martyr
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15 (Day)
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20 (Vigil)
6:30 PM Beth Tebbets by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, May 13 ~ Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20
8:00 AM Joshua Alberts by Jim Edwards
Newton

Friday, May 14 ~ Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17
No Mass

Saturday, May 15 ~ Isidore
Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28 (Day)
Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Verna Carbone by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, May 16 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19
8:00 AM Francis Antczak by the Burge family
Newton
10:00 AM Ellie Bauer by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow



MAY 9, 2021

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday at 7 PM** of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward

any questions you may have. **Please contact SVdP Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or jimmy69180@hotmail.com to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.** If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315. Visit us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL>

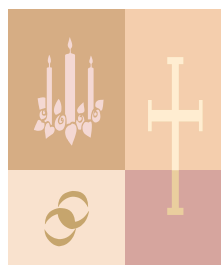


The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

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 call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at

csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



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 in the Parish Office for more information and assistance – there are ways in which your situation might be resolved!



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 & friends to do the same.

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.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
COUNCIL #6617, WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL MOTHERS, STEPMOTHERS, AND
CAREGIVERS A BLESSED AND
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.

THE KNIGHTS
OF
COLUMBUS
COUNCIL
#6617



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH OFFERS SUPPORT
PROGRAMS IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC...**

Here are some resources:

Catholic Charities continues to offer Adoption and Maternity Services (669-3030), Immigration Legal Services (889-9431), and Mental Health Counseling (some on-line - 669-3030). Our Healthcare Service facilities are located throughout the state (call 669-3030 or see our website for a facility close to you). Our Place continues parent education services from pregnancy through the first three years of a child's life (647-2244). St Charles School continues to provide academic, social, emotional and behavioral services to children in grades K-8 (332-4768). And The Food Bank continues to provide food supplies to most food pantries throughout the state.

You may not be aware that Liberty House supports vulnerable veterans with recovery, job placement and wellness programs (669-0761). Monadnock at Home supports seniors in the Monadnock area allowing them to stay independent and remain in their homes (371-0809). Our Caregivers program lends support to homebound seniors and the disabled in the greater Manchester and Nashua areas (622-4948).

TAKE OUT ITALIAN FEAST

The Hampstead Knights of Columbus are planning a "Take Out Dinner" on **Friday, May 14, 2021**. The Dinner will consist of Spaghetti, Meatballs, Sausage, Manicotti, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert. **Dinner Orders need to be called in by 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, May 12.** Meals can be picked up behind St. Anne's Church between 4:30 and 6:30 PM. Please donate what you feel this Fantastic Feast is worth to help the Knights' worthy Charities. Both cash and checks will be accepted. Make checks payable to: "K of C Council 9058." Please call one of the following phone numbers to order your meal: St. Anne Parish, 603-329-5886; Joe Tabbi, 603-231-1885, or Nick Maselli, 603-490-1507. Give your name, phone number, and number of meals requested. **REMEMBER to place your order by 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, May 12!**

CATHOLIC WOMEN

The New Hampshire Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invite you to join them on **Saturday, May 15, 2021** to honor Mary, our Blessed Mother. Join us for Mass at 8:00 AM followed by the Rosary. To participate on May 15, come to St. Joseph Cathedral in person or visit the Cathedral website for the livestream at <https://www.stjosephcathedralnh.org>.

SUMMER FUN AT ST. JOE'S

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is offering "Summer Fun at St. Joe's", a six-week program open to children ages 4 to 8, beginning **June 21, 2021 through August 6, 2021 (not available week of July, 5 2021)**. Each themed week is filled with fun, enriching activities including active time in our beautiful playground. Half day, full day, and before/after care options available. To register, and for more information, email Mrs. Farren: summer@sjrcs.com.

**NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP
FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH**

Divorce / separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward. Participants will learn more about the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at 12:00 Noon) starting **April 21**. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup or call 603-752-1325.

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 15:9-17

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you." The Gospel is taken from a long talk Jesus had with his disciples at the Last Supper. He calls them to live on in his love and gives them a great commandment: "Love one another as I love you."

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child learned that love brings us together. Remember that your child learns about love from experiencing the caring and loving actions he or she receives at home. He or she also learned to pray the Rosary. Practice the prayer at home. Ask your child to share the stand-up story cards and to tell the family what he or she remembers about story that goes with the pictures. The message of the story is that love brings us together.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about Jesus' one rule—love. Make sure your child understands that Jesus is always with us to help us grow into people who love other people the way he loves us. Pray that your family will always love others as Jesus loves your family.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child's class talked about Jesus' new Law of Love. Talk about the ways you show love in your family. Talk as well about the ways your family shows love to those outside of it. Make sure your child sees our call to love as their lifelong mission. Pray the Prayer of Mission from the lesson as a family this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class, your son or daughter learned that they need to put Jesus' commandment to "love one another" into action. He or she also explored the Church's devotion to Mary and how her life is revealed in the Bible. Have your child show you the Living the Gospel activity. How did your child do putting the timeline in order? Discuss the Summer Prayer for the Holy Spirit. How will the Holy Spirit guide your child this summer? Finally, have your child tell you about Saint Mother Theodore Guérin, founder of the Sisters of the Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods.

Visions (Grades 7-9): In class this week, your son or daughter identified ways he or she can keep Jesus' command to love one another. They also learned that Jesus promised us all a Helper who would assist us in keeping that command—the Holy Spirit. The young people discovered some of the signs of the Holy Spirit—peace, honesty, courage, faith, generosity, compassion, kindness, patience, joy, self-control, and service. As a family, discuss how you can show these signs of the Holy Spirit to others you meet.

Pray Together

Each night before bed, say the following Holy Spirit prayer together:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and our hearts shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the world.
Amen.





Maybe

it's time

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

Maybe it's your time.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow
603 382 8324. www.stlukenh.org



Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

May 9, 2021

God's Generous Love

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The painting by Aldo Carpi, *The Madonna of the Poor*, shows the Virgin Mary bringing Baby Jesus to visit the poor. She doesn't make distinctions. Mary understood that Jesus didn't come just for the rich and powerful but for everyone.

Peter learns this lesson when speaking to Cornelius and his household. Until this time, the apostles were preaching to the Jewish people, but when Peter speaks to these Romans, the Holy Spirit comes upon them just as he had upon the Jews. They repent and believe. This for Peter was essential, because it

showed that Jesus wanted to send his Spirit and teachings to everyone, not just the chosen race. God doesn't show favoritism.

The same goes for us. It's natural to want to love our own: our family and those sharing our social status, political party, club, school, or parish. But our love has to spread to all peoples, especially those in the most moral, material, and spiritual need. God is love, and those who love show they come from God.

Another element of love is that it is free, wanting nothing in return. Recently, while sitting at an outdoor café, a woman walked up and gave me a small, wrapped gift. "I like to give gifts to complete strangers, just to make their day," she said. What a beautiful gesture.

We should also not that Cornelius accepted God's love, was baptized, and began following the Way. He and his family didn't take that free love of God for granted. They responded to it in joyful obedience. God's generous love asks for an equally generous response. +

It's natural to want to love our own, but our love has to spread to all people, especially those in most need.

Sunday Readings

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

They could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

1 John 4:7–10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

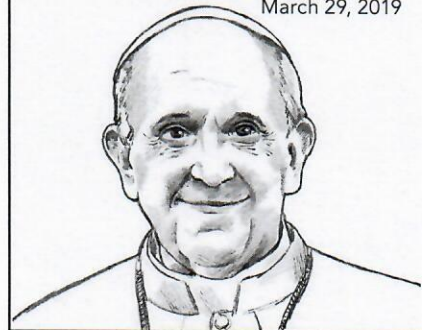
John 15:9–17

[Jesus said,] "Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

A Word from Pope Francis

Reconciliation itself is a benefit that the wisdom of the Church has always safeguarded with all her moral and legal might, with the sacramental seal.... It is indispensable for the sanctity of the sacrament and for the freedom of conscience of the penitent...that the sacramental conversation will remain within the secrecy of the confessional.

—Address to Apostolic Penitentiary, March 29, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I help those who disagree with me or my beliefs?
- Do I understand that God's love requires a generous response?

How Are We Called?

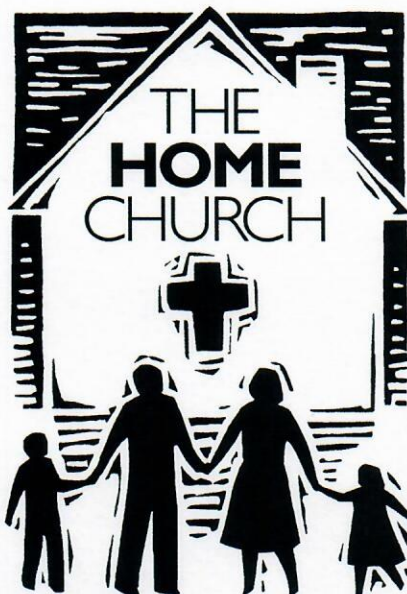
By Kathleen M. Basi

Since the moment Pope Francis first appeared on the balcony at St. Peter's, he has been engaging the world. He energizes us and at the same time challenges us to actively participate in our faith. Most of us would rather practice our faith within the safety of a little box, where the Christian call is as clear-cut as praying the rosary, lighting a candle, and attending Sunday Mass. Pope Francis asks us to move beyond the walls of the Church and be a true witness to Christ in the world.

Like many faithful people, I always thought most issues had simple answers. However, after having a child with a disability, I realized that when the Christian call intersects with the real world, things become more complex—life isn't that simple.

Consider the pro-life cause, perhaps the most clear-cut issue imaginable. It's not enough to believe that children with disabilities have a right to be born. Their needs impose a heavy financial burden on their families: therapies, surgeries, orthotics, and so on. We have a moral obligation to support life at all stages, even when it requires societal intervention that runs counter to ideals about self-sufficiency.

Pope Francis has called us to confront complex questions and seek thorough answers. Using this thorough process, how can we address some of the questions we face?



- How am I *called* to respond to bitter conflicts within my extended family?
- How am I *called* to interact with the person who delights in goading me?
- How am I *called* to love the family member who is gay or lesbian?
- How am I *called* to help the homeless person at the corner?
- How am I *called* to interact with the person in a wheelchair whose speech is hard to understand?
- How am I *called* to alleviate the desperation that leads a woman to choose abortion?
- How am I *called* to honor human dignity, not only of crime victims, but of those who perpetrate the crime?

As followers of Christ, we will always find ourselves being called upon to respond to situations that may not be as clear-cut as they appear on the surface. Although the path may be demanding, we have the support of the Church and Christ as an example of how to do the hard work. Pope Francis has called us to labor together.

Faith grows only when it is stretched. A call of faith is not a static request; to follow Christ means to get up, pick up your cross, and act. True discipleship—though difficult—is worthwhile, because it draws us closer to the heart of Christ, the source of our calling. +

*Faith grows only when
it is stretched.*



*Risen Lord, you command us
to love one another.
Help me to show your love
to all people.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of
Easter through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 10–15

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:11–15 / Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:22–34 / Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:1–8 / Jn 16:16–20

Friday, St. Matthias:
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 18:23–28 / Jn 16:23b–28

Bringing Home
the Word 
May 9, 2021

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