



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 8, 2018  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Divine Mercy Sunday

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: Jesus Is Risen BB 178

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

*This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice; let us be glad. This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation.*

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name.*

Preparation The Day Of Resurrection BB 177

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: Ubi Caritas BB 328  
In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 325

Recessional: Christ The Lord Is Risen Today BB 174

10:00 AM

Gathering: Alleluia, Alleluia, Let The Holy Anthem Rise BB 167

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

*This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice; let us be glad. This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation.*

Sprinkling Rite: *If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in Him, Alleluia, alleluia!*

Preparation We Walk By Faith BB 497  
Alleluia # 1 BB 567

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 325  
We Have Been Told BB 498

Recessional: River Of Glory BB 651

## ✠ 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!

**March 25, 2018**

Offertory	\$7,096.11
Catholic Relief Services	\$2,217.11

THE COLLECTION FOR  
APRIL 1, 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

April 8, 2018	Property Management
April 15, 2018	No Second Collection



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 ✠

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2017, please call Jackie at the Parish Office at 382-8324. Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.



### **PASCHAL VESPERS and BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Paschal Vespers are sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on the first two Sundays of Easter, **April 1 & April 8**. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection.

### EASTER CANDLES

Donations to defray the cost of the new Paschal Candles for the Easter Season are welcome. Please contact Jackie at the Parish Office for details.



### **From the Pastor's Desk**



### HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY REMAINS CLOSED

Given all of the snow and cold we have had in the past few weeks, Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow **will remain closed until AT LEAST April 15, 2018**. Once we have determined that the snow is gone and the ground is safe, we will reopen the Cemetery. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

Fr. Albert



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

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

#### ***How can you help?***

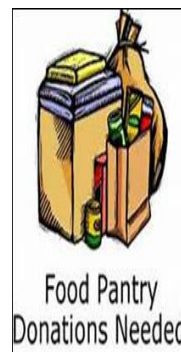
Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

***Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.***

### **ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY**

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to ***St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry***. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



### **FOOD PANTRY HOURS**

**Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

**Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

### **WHILE AWAY THIS 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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, April 8**

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Confirmation Retreat	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>

**Wednesday, April 11**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH**  
**OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

7:00 PM	Reader Scripture Share	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Thursday, April 12**

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

**Saturday, April 14**

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Sunday, April 15**

10:00 AM	Religious Education – Pre-K to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Confirmation Session	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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. Vincent  
 de Paul  
 Society**



Our Society is available if you need a “hand up” when you “fall” because the unexpected happened or any other crisis has occurred. We are a confidential yet friendly ear, ready to listen to you.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 18 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, April 7 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Easter /  
 Sunday of Divine Mercy**

*Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31*  
 4:00 PM Thomas Gallagher by May Gallagher  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, April 8 ~ Second Sunday of Easter /  
 Sunday of Divine Mercy**

*Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31*  
 8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Janice Bettencourt  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Robert Cooper by his parents  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, April 9 ~ The Annunciation of the Lord**

*Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38*  
 8:00 AM The Intentions of Erin and Steve Behan  
 by Mark and Colleen Hammond  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, April 10 ~ Easter Weekday**

*Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15*  
 8:00 AM Donald Sargent (Month's Mind)  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, April 11 ~ Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**

*Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21*  
 6:30 PM John Alfieri by Fran LaChance  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, April 12 ~ Easter Weekday**

*Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36*  
 8:00 AM Lisa Marie Lamaire by Jeannie Hennessey  
*Newton*

**Friday, April 13 ~ Martin I, Pope and Martyr**

*Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, April 14 ~ Easter Weekday**

*Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 (Day)*  
*Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Josie Chudzicki by Pat Zakiewicz  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, April 15 ~ Third Sunday of Easter**

*Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48*  
 8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by the Brotz Family  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond  
*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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

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

APRIL 8, 2018

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

### SEQUENCE OF THE INITIATION SACRAMENTS

Many dioceses are in the process of restoring the sacrament of Confirmation to its rightful place in the initiation sequence: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This honors a very ancient tradition and reflects the sequence in which the sacraments are celebrated in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). For much of this century many parishes in the U.S. have been postponing Confirmation. They thought that in junior high or high school young people were better able to make a personal decision and an "adult commitment" to Christ and to the church. Thus, we separated Confirmation from its real roots as a sacrament of initiation into the faith community. We threw it out of its historical sequence. We tried to make it stand out there by itself. There were some very positive pastoral results when we did this: more participation in faith formation programs until a later age and a more mature experience of sacramental life. But, there is wisdom in the ancient tradition of having the three sacraments of initiation celebrated in their traditional order: Baptism, Confirmation, and then Eucharist. In Baptism, we are immersed in the death and resurrection of Christ. In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Eucharist, we sit with the community at the banquet of life which prepares us for the eternal banquet. Eucharist is, and should be, the ultimate peak of our sacramental life. Now we need to assess what we are doing with sacraments in the church. Our ancient tradition has much to teach us, as is evident from our experience with the RCIA in our parishes. The way we initiate new members into the church can also teach us how our own children should experience the sacraments of initiation. Since the 1970's had two contrasting supplemental practices. On the one hand, those becoming Catholics, including children as young as seven, celebrated all three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. On the other hand, in some parishes the children raised from infancy as Catholics were told that they wouldn't be ready for Confirmation until they were teens. Restoring the traditional sequence of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist for the Catholic youngsters will make us consistent in our practice.

### RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. 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](mailto: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, April 8, 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. 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.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. We have many people 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](mailto: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	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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Thomas Kondel	<a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:youth@stluketheevangelist.net">youth@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



## *In Loving Memory*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:  
**Martin Feuer**

### **JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER**

Young adults, age 18-35, are invited to the monthly gathering of Jesus aCross the Border on **Friday, April 20, 2018** at Merrimack College – Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher from 7:30 PM to 12:00 AM. For more information, email Billy Beauchesne at [JESUSaCROSStheBorder@gmail.com](mailto:JESUSaCROSStheBorder@gmail.com).

### **CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS WANTED FOR POPULAR CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

It's that time of year again when each of us starts making plans for the crafting season ... which fairs?? which weekends??

If you – or someone you know – would like to be considered as a vendor for this year's St. Luke the Evangelist Christmas Craft Fair, **the first jury period ends on May 7<sup>th</sup>**. We expect to be oversubscribed, so don't delay!

Work must be original and executed by the applicants, and may include food and/or beverages (no baked goods).

1<sup>st</sup> – Please save the date of our Parish Fair: **Saturday November 10, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

2<sup>nd</sup> – To apply, please contact the Craft Fair at: [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com). Applications are also available at <http://stlukenh.org> under "News and Events" or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

We are always looking for new vendors to keep our Fair exciting for our visitors!

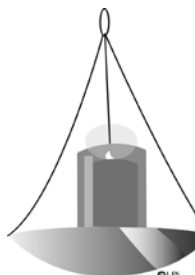
Don't miss out on participating in this fun and well-attended event!

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - THANK YOU**

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who attended our St. Patty's Celebration on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a wonderful meal, awesome desserts, and great entertainment with the Irish dancing exhibition, Irish music and raffles. The people who attended were very generous and the winner of the 50/50 Raffle donated the money back to the Knights. The net profit from the Celebration will be used by the Knights to support St. Luke's Food Pantry with food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and the remainder of the net profit will be donated to our Parish's Capital Campaign Program.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation will take place in our parish on **Sunday, April 22 at the 10:00 AM Mass** in Plaistow. Please pray for our youth as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **daughter Lisa** by her mother Ann Stefanski and family



### **FIRST COMMUNION DAY**

First Communion will take place in our parish on the following **Sundays: May 6 and May 13** at both the 8:00 AM Liturgies in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgies in Plaistow. Please pray for our First Communicants and their families as they prepare for this joyous celebration!

### **EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS**

**April 15, 2018 at 1:00 PM**

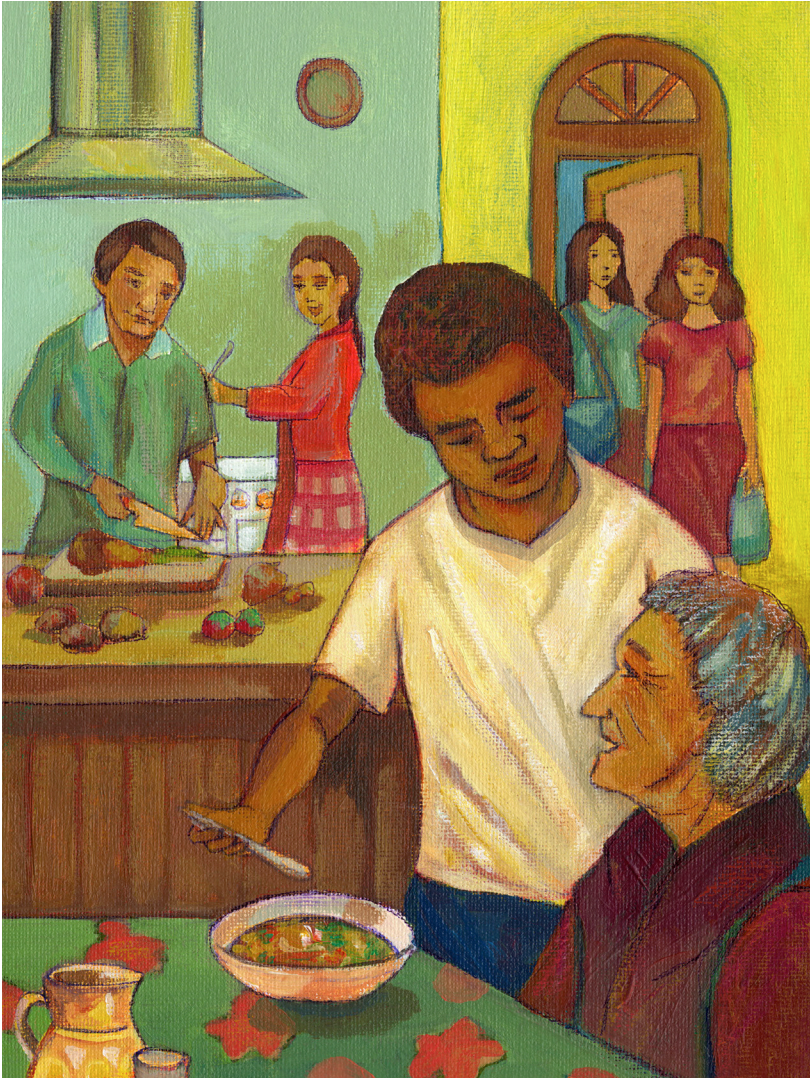
St. Andre Bessette Parish in Laconia, NH welcomes you to a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics. Over 150 relics will be shown, some believed to be as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Andre Bessette, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Maria Goretti, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a piece of a veil which is believed to have belonged to Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

### **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](http://www.amazonsmile.com). Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



## Heart and Mind

God, font of all life,  
through the Paschal Mystery of  
your Son, Jesus,  
you have restored your people to life.  
Our house gives you praise  
for your enduring mercy and  
unending love.

Watch over and protect our community  
as we work to make known the message  
of salvation.

Keep us one in heart and mind  
as we work to build up your Kingdom.  
Give us hearts overflowing with mercy  
as we minister to those most in need.  
Help us remain faithful to your call  
so that our words and actions  
may always proclaim Christ as Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

**Easter Sunday**



*Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31.* Jesus' Resurrection establishes a new way of living. He is the new covenant and in his life, death, and Resurrection, he reveals our loving and merciful God. This new way of living is one of mercy and reconciliation, one of peace and hope, one where the chains of sin can no longer hold us captive. Christ has changed us and, as we proclaim in the refrain to the Responsorial Psalm, we "give thanks to the Lord" because "his love is everlasting." Our First Reading gives a sense of this new way of living. Acts tells us that the community was united in one heart and mind and that they held their possessions in common. The final lines describe the social outreach of this early community. Christ brought them together

and continues to bring us together. We are united to him in one Body, which invites us to risk everything for him and the Kingdom.

Too often we hear of division in our communities. Being members of Christ's Body urges us to love and forgive. This mercy should not be insular but lead us into the world to advocate for justice. If Christ has truly united us in one heart and mind, then we must work to reconcile differences and let the light of Christ within us shine forth so others may know the transforming love of God. Consider how your faith in Christ leads you to build up the Body of Christ. This week, reach out to your neighbors and friends for conversation or a meal.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, April 9**

### The Annunciation of the Lord

“Do not be afraid.” Imagine what it must have been like for Mary to learn God had chosen her to carry the Savior. By grace, she was able to say yes and remain faithful to God. In Baptism, we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we say yes and commit ourselves to a life that proclaims the Good News. When faced with trials or doubts, keep in mind what the angel said to Mary. There is no need to be afraid; God will be with us. Today, pray for all expectant mothers. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

**Tuesday, April 10**

### Of One Heart and Mind

Just as disagreements arise in faith communities today, the early Church had its difficulties. The picture that Acts paints of the Church as an ideal Christian community provides us something to ponder. Jesus’ Paschal Mystery unites us into one community of God’s mercy. Jesus showed this compassion during his earthly ministry. How does your parish imitate the community of believers? Consider volunteering to coordinate your parish outreach. *Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

**Wednesday, April 11**

### Memorial of St. Stanislaus

God’s love and justice filled the heart of St. Stanislaus, who fervently opposed injustice and violence in his native Poland. He worked against the injustice of the government of his day, which eventually led to his death. Since we are filled with the light of Christ, we are called to bring light to those in darkness and help free others from oppression. Our Easter alleluias have no meaning if they do not lead us to work for justice and reveal God’s saving love. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

**Thursday, April 12**

### Share the Gospel

The Apostles are being challenged again in today’s First Reading. They remain fervent in their witness to God and refuse to stop sharing the Good News. Their faith in Christ moves them to glorify God’s name and witness to all what God has given in Christ Jesus. If we live in Christ, the Spirit works through us to share the Gospel. Research a modern-day saint who refused to stop sharing the Gospel. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

**Friday, April 13**

### Tell the Story

No matter the obstacle, the Apostles remain passionate in teaching about Jesus. How would you respond if you found yourself in the First Reading and were flogged and told not to speak of Christ? Would you rejoice as these followers did? For thousands of years, God’s Word has permeated place after place. As disciples who seek to dwell in the Lord’s house, we must be found worthy to suffer for Christ our light. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

**Saturday, April 14**

### Ministry of the Word

The First Reading describes the beginning of what we know as the diaconate. Since the community was growing, the needs within the community also grew. Seven men were called upon to help in the ministry through the distribution of goods, freeing the Twelve to spread the Good News. The number seven shows the universal nature of the Church. Today, pray for deacons and consider finding out more about St. Stephen. *Today’s Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



## ✠ PARISH MINISTRIES & INFORMATION ✠

### JOIN THE CHOIR!

Why not join the Choir? We have lots of fun, work hard, and singing is a great way to worship! You don't have to know how to read music to join – come on down!

### CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

The Contemporary Choir is always looking for new members. If you would like to sing with us or you can play an instrument, we would be overjoyed to have you join us! All ages and abilities are invited.

### ALTAR SERVERS

We welcome any student who has celebrated their First Eucharist to become an **Altar Server**. Training typically begins with the new server being an “observer” until they are ready to function as servers. Parents – see Fr. Albert or call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.



### READERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of new **READERS** for weekend and weekday Liturgies. Readers proclaim the readings and lead the Assembly in the General Intercessions on Sundays. A good heart and clear speaking voice are the only qualifications needed – all other training and materials are provided. Any adult or high school age student is welcome to become a **READER**. Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **READERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

### GREETERS AND USHERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of **GREETERS** and **USHERS** to assist us at the weekend liturgies. **Greeters** are principally concerned with offering a welcome to all who come through the doors of our churches, distributing the weekly Bulletin and making guests feel part of our Parish. They also help designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. The ministry of **Usher** is also concerned with hospitality; helping with the collections at Mass, helping people who need handicap access to the church in Plaistow, and helping to designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. Couples or families are invited to serve together! Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **GREETERS** and **USHERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

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, 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.

### HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the parish office at 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.

### PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. Submit your prayer request to [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net) or call 382-8324, ext. 314.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JUDE COUNCIL #6617 SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The St. Jude Council is a vital part of your parish. We are a Catholic men's fraternal organization whose main purposes are charitable works and supporting our parish and community. We are involved with many activities during the year, including: A yearly Golf Tournament to raise money to help local families in need; Blood Drives; A Wedding Vows/Valentine's Day Meal & Dance; Food Baskets; Family Pool Party & BBQ. This is just a small sampling of the many activities of the St. Jude Council. We offer opportunities not just for the men, but for our members' entire family, including a Squires Club for young men between the ages of 10 and 18. The only requirement for membership is that you are a practicing Catholic who wants to join other men and their families of the parish to help those who are in need, support your parish, and enjoy the fellowship of other members and their families. If you would like to find out more about the Knights, please contact Bernie Gosselin at 603-642-4012.



# The Gospel at Home

## Easter Sunday Gospel: John 20:1–9 2nd Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 20:19–31

Easter Sunday celebrates the core of the Christian faith—that God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus promised that all who believe in him will have new life with God. The Gospels for both Sundays that are covered in this lesson tell the story of Easter—first through the eyes of Mary Magdalene and next through the eyes of the Apostles, especially Thomas. Note that the Gospels in the children’s lessons include the bridge between these two Gospels: John 20:10–18.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Easter celebrates the power of Jesus’ great love. Jesus promises that all who believe in him will live forever. Talk with your child about the signs of new life they see in springtime. Make sure you point out that the bunnies, egg hunts, and candy are ways to celebrate the great joy of Easter and the new life Jesus gives.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Children of this age love to tell stories. This week, your child learned about the greatest story of all—God raising Jesus from the dead. Ask your child to share this wonderful story with the family in his or her own words. Make sure that you find a place to hang the Alleluia butterflies in your home.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Your child learned about God raising Jesus to new life. Share all the ways your family celebrates this great feast. Ask each member to tell what he or she likes best about Easter. Ask your child to tell the story from the lesson titled, “The Easter Egg Hunt.” Talk about the symbols that tell of Easter joy—candles, eggs, lilies, butterflies, and the like. Be

sure to attend Easter Mass together.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** Your child’s class discovered that Easter is also a Baptism feast. The class learned about the experience of Easter Baptism through the eyes of three young people their age who were baptized at the Easter Vigil. Share memories of your child’s baptism. As a family, renew your baptismal promises to be faithful to Christ and the Church and to follow what the Church believes and teaches.

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** Easter is the central festival of the Church year. It celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and every Christian’s passage through the waters of Baptism to new life in Christ and his Church. The celebration of the Easter Vigil is filled with symbols of the history of God’s People, of their new life, and of the promise of life everlasting. Your young son or daughter is at an age when the experience of the Easter Vigil can help them appreciate their membership in the Church.

### Pray Together

Make a family Easter candle. Decorate a plain white candle with the signs and symbols of Easter. Each evening during the first week of the Easter feast, light the candle and spend a few moments in family prayer. Then renew your baptismal promises by making the Sign of the Cross together.



# Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) | April 8, 2018

## Life Reborn

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the first few days after our first child was born, I wasn't conscious of time. I'd sit still and look at this miracle of life, knowing that I loved her with all my heart and that our lives would never be the same. I'd get to the end of the day and wonder where the time had gone. And when she was married last year, I remembered those days like they were yesterday.

Something like that is happening now, but the first week of Easter is more than a recollection of the empty tomb. Each day's Gospel reading refers to appearances of the risen Christ to his disciples. In this way we mark the "new creation" brought about by Christ's resurrection.

For many of us, the week was another round of work or school. Our busyness might have kept us from giving much thought to the feast we just celebrated. But in our spiritual lives, time has stood still for a little while so we might ponder this miracle of life. It's a reminder that we're born new in this moment, an invitation to savor the experience and allow ourselves to be changed by it.

In today's reading, St. Paul gives us a glimpse of what life reborn looked like for the new Christian community. There was unity of heart and mind and generosity toward those who were in need. After the resurrection, their lives would never be the same.

The Church takes its time with Easter so that, no matter how old we get, we'll remember it like it was yesterday and live accordingly. +

## A Word From Pope Francis

Mercy warms the heart and makes it sensitive to the needs of brothers and sisters with sharing and participation. Thus, mercy requires everyone to be instruments of justice, reconciliation, and peace. Let us never forget that mercy is the keystone in the life of faith, and the concrete form by which we make Jesus' resurrection visible.

—Divine Mercy Sunday,  
April 23, 2017



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 4:32–35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind.

### 1 Jn 5:1–6

And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

### Jn 20:19–31

[Jesus said,] "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Do I find security in the love of another in a healthy way? Is it the fruit of giving and not possessing?
- Is my strongest foundation in the love and mercy of Jesus?



# God's Extravagant Mercy

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

There is a scene in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* that addresses forgiveness. The king, Claudius, has murdered his brother, married his brother's widow, and stolen the crown. In his soliloquy, Claudius reveals what is transpiring in his tortured soul. The king knows that his fault is past but prayer does not serve him well since the effects of his crime—the stealing of the crown, the sinful fulfillment of his ambition, and his adulterous relationship with the queen—all remain. He senses that his murder cannot be forgiven as long as the effects of the murder remain.

Our faith tells us that God's mercy is always available through the salvation gained for us in Christ. We need but turn to God with sincere intent and resolve, confess our sins, and receive divine mercy. No one is excluded from this grace. God's will is that all be saved.

What is blasphemous, what blocks God's extravagant mercy pouring into our souls is not any particular sin that is unforgivable. Rather, the blasphemy happens when we refuse to forgo the effects of our sins (power, pride, possessions) and are unwilling to reform our lives with a sincere

purpose of amendment. It is not that sin is unforgivable, that God withholds divine mercy. Rather, it is an obstinate disposition that hardens the heart, preventing the rain of divine mercy from penetrating the soul.

## Mercy Accepted, Rejected

In the Garden, Peter spoke words of betrayal, denying that he knew Jesus. Subsequently, Peter acknowledged his sin, wept bitterly, and was forgiven. With humility and courage, Peter faced his failure. We know the rest of the story.

For just thirty pieces of silver Judas also betrayed his master. Unable or unwilling to accept Jesus' merciful gaze, this disciple took his own life.

Mercy was afforded to both; it was accepted by only one. In some way Judas got stuck in himself and could not believe that he still retained infinite human worth. His sin shattered his sense of dignity and led to self-disdain.

Saint Augustine, in speaking of sin, describes it as *curvatus in se*, that is, turned in on oneself. Sin does exactly that. It refuses to breathe the fresh air of God's mercy. It suffocates us, cutting us off from God and others. There is a disconnect, a partial or total severing of the branch from the vine of God's life.

Jesus came precisely to reconcile us to God, to one another, and to ourselves.

## Appropriating God's Message

In another Shakespearean play, *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo sees his beloved at some distance and says to himself: "O it is my love. O that she knew she were." Juliet doesn't know it! God says to us, his beloved daughters and sons: "O you are my love. Would that you knew you were!"

Could the "unforgivable" sin against the Holy Spirit be our refusal, upon hearing the message of God's love in Jesus, to appropriate this message and let it shape our lives? Joseph Campbell once suggested that the unpardonable sin was "the sin of inadvertence, of not being alert, not quite awake." The spiritual life is about staying awake to the infinite love and mercy of God given us in Jesus.

Though Shakespeare as a dramatist is not a "religious" writer, his plays provide clues for understanding the great mysteries of sin and forgiveness. For these clues, we should be grateful. +

***Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven" (Luke 12:10).***



Risen Lord, you fulfilled your promise by rising from the dead.

Help me to practice what I preach..

From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost,

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 9–14, 2018

Monday, Annunciation of the Lord:  
Is 7:10–14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday—St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr: Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

Bringing Home  
the Word   
April 8, 2018

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