



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, April 22, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**4:00 PM
8:00 AM**

Gathering: All Creatures Of Our God And King BB 537

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 You Have Called Us BB 646

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: Take And Eat BB 361
Lord, Who At Thy First Eucharist BB 366

Recessional: At The Lamb's High Feast BB 165

10:00 AM

Gathering: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You BB 543

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.

Preparation Shepherd Me, O Lord BB 459
We Will Rise Again BB 440

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: Like A Shepherd BB 607
Our Blessing Cup BB 363

Recessional: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name BB 192

✠ 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!

April 15, 2018

Offertory

\$6,760.31

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 22, 2018	Fuel
April 29, 2018	Catholic Charities
May 6, 2018	Property Management
May 10, 2018	Ascension
May 13, 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 ✠



We welcome into our faith community

Gabriel Ray Corta Luz

who recently received the
Sacrament of Baptism



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 13, 2018.**



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!

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 MAY 1, 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?

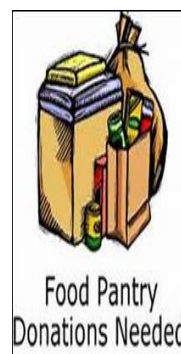
Any contribution is welcome.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, April 22
10:00 AM NO Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
10:00 AM CONFIRMATION *Plaistow*
11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*

Wednesday, April 25
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, April 26
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, April 28
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, April 29
10:00 AM Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM First Eucharist Retreat *Plaistow*
11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*



Find us on:
facebook®

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**



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, May 16 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 21 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, April 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

8:00 AM Anna Heffler by Grace Bukowski
Newton
10:00 AM CONFIRMATION
Plaistow

**Monday, April 23 ~ George, Martyr; Adalbert, Bishop
and Martyr**

Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10
8:00 AM Ann Sabato (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, April 24 ~ Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr
Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

8:00 AM Ann Markovich (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, April 25 ~ Mark, Evangelist
1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

6:30 PM Philip Consentino (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, April 26 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

8:00 AM Christina Delaney (Month's Mind)
by Grace Bukowski
Newton

Friday, April 27 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6
No Mass

**Saturday, April 28 ~ Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest**

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 (Day)
Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Kevin Gallant (25th Anniversary)
by Patricia Gallant and family
Plaistow

Sunday, April 29 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Jackie Tremblay
Newton
10:00 AM W. Ralph Sampson by his wife and family
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 ✠

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT CONFIRMATION

Ofentimes after Confirmation some of our young people feel that they have *graduated* from the religious education programs and parish. Their parents have made great efforts to get them confirmed, and then breathe a sigh of relief, "At least we got that done!"

Is that what Confirmation is about? "Something to get done?" Why have Confirmation at all? Does it have anything to do with youth ministry?

In the Western church, when the bishop could not be present for the Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion with new Christians, priests were allowed to Baptize and to preside at the Eucharist in the name of the bishop. But bishops reserved the celebration of Confirmation to themselves in order to give witness to the unity of the church family in the diocese. Thus, people could be baptized in the parish where there was a priest. But Confirmation was delayed until the bishop could be present. Gradually, it was delayed so long that it started to be regarded as a "sacrament of maturity." That is not the original meaning or Confirmation as a Sacrament.

We know that Christian growth is a lifelong transformation through the grace of Christ. The danger we run into when Confirmation is celebrated in the teenage years is that it may be considered as some kind of "graduation" from church involvement. Youth ministry has its own singular importance and place in the church. It should not be used as a preparation for Confirmation. Once youth ministry has been liberated from the burden of Confirmation programming, it can find its own authenticity.

The history of the church's Confirmation practice demonstrates that Confirmation belongs before the Eucharist. We need to find a way to get it back where it belongs.

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.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, May 6, 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.

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.

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	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** ✠

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATION TO THE
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus from our parish is very pleased to announce that they have just made a donation of \$959 towards the needed improvements for our parish. The donation now leaves a balance of \$1,541 towards the \$2,500 pledge that the Knights made earlier this year. The Knights have committed to fill the balance of the pledge this year

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.

**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 7th**. 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).

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

2nd – To apply, please contact the Craft Fair at: 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!

**MASS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE SUFFERING FROM
INFERTILITY, MISCARRIAGE, OR LOSS**

Join Bishop Libasci at a celebration of Mass in support of those suffering from infertility, miscarriage, or loss on **Tuesday, April 24, 2018** at 6:00 PM at St. Joseph Cathedral Chapel in Manchester, NH. This Mass is open to all, bringing together those affected and unaffected by these tragedies, to pray together for healing, understanding, and fortitude. A light reception in the rectory will follow. For more information, please contact Derek McDonald at 603-663-0171.

CATHERINE OF SIENA: A WOMAN FOR OUR TIMES

Saint Kathryn Church, 4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH, has the joy of welcoming Sister Nancy Murray, O.P., who will present a one-woman performance based on the life of Saint Catherine of Siena. This presentation will be offered in the church on **Sunday, April 29th at 3:00 PM**. Sister Nancy, a Dominican Sister from Adrian, Michigan, brings to us a wonderful performance, revealing to us the greatness of Saint Catherine and the beauty and depth of her relationship with Jesus Christ. There is general admission for this performance, so register NOW for complimentary tickets at <https://catherine-of-siena.eventbrite.com/>! There are only enough tickets for the number of seats in the church. Once they are gone, they are gone—so don't delay! For additional information, please contact Charlene Maniotis in the parish office at 603.882.7793.

**SAINT PIO COMES TO THE
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER**

All are invited to come to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Manchester, NH and venerate the official relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina on the occasion of the 50th commemoration anniversary of his passing on **Monday, April 30, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM**. A Mass in honor of Saint Pio will be celebrated at 6:00 PM by The Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, Bishop of Manchester. For more information, please call 603-622-6404.

THINKING ABOUT REMARRIAGE?

A day long program for couples who are thinking about remarriage and for engaged couples who plan to remarry will be held at St. Pius X Parish in Manchester on **Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. For more information, contact Alyse Hlasny at 603-663-0108.

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. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI!

April 22, 2018

**Erin Emma Abel
Frank Joseph Ahearn
Marissa Rose Borgesi
Christian James Cordio
Paolo Andrew Cordio
John Andrew Delaney
Michael Karl Dieli
Regina Rose Dieli
Cameron David DiMarco
Seth Lucas Donnelly
Abigail Elizabeth Ferullo
Brianna Catherine Frezza
Joseph Paul Friel**

**Jack William Gray
Jaclyn Pauline Jacques
Jenna Pauline Jacques
Matthew Roland Lajoie
Elaina Patricia Latino
Tyler John Lovely
Christina Lee McVey
Hadysha Karoline Miller
Jake Ryan Murphy
Cameron Scott Noyes
Kathryn Grace O'Sullivan
Shannon Grace Rainville
Bryant Stephan Szot**

Restore • Renew • Proclaim

the Hope that is Christ



The Diocese of Manchester is in the process of continuing to strengthen and renew faith formation in our parish, school and home school communities. Through this process we are being called anew to “Restore, Renew and Proclaim the Hope that is Christ.”

The goal is to make lifelong faith formation a priority and a reality throughout the diocese. This requires a few things:

- Making adult faith formation a priority in our parishes, which includes formation of catechists, parents and the entire adult community.
- Strengthening our youth ministry programs to include all teens of high school age.
- Reimagining our sacrament preparation processes to include a return to celebrating the sacraments of initiation in their **restored order**: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.

What is Lifelong Faith Formation?

Lifelong faith formation is a process of growing in the faith that begins with baptism. Immersed in the life of the Trinity, we are adopted sons and daughters of God our Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. Like all human relationships, developing and deepening our relationship with the Trinity happens gradually and over time. Consequently, lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship and knowledge of God, Jesus and the Spirit; to enhance our understanding of Scripture, Tradition and doctrines of our faith; and to sustain us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

What does restored order of the Sacraments mean?

Restored order means returning the three sacraments of Christian initiation to the logical order in which they were designed to be celebrated: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Church, it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in this sequence.

Why is the Diocese of Manchester changing the age of Confirmation?

By placing Confirmation at this age, the Diocese of Manchester will be following the natural sequence of the sacraments of Christian initiation. In addition, by placing Confirmation **prior to the reception of First Eucharist** it makes it easier to view the Eucharist as the summit of Christian initiation.

How is the celebration of Confirmation going to change in the Diocese of Manchester?

By 2021, the standard age of Confirmation is going to be third grade, and Confirmation will be celebrated at the same liturgy as First Communion. As a result, the preparation and reception of the sacraments of initiation throughout the Diocese of Manchester will be Baptism in infancy, Confirmation and Eucharist in third grade. Although not a sacrament of initiation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received in the second grade.

What are the benefits of restored order?

First, it will highlight that the Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the culmination of Christian initiation. Secondly, with the reception of grace of the Holy Spirit at a younger age, it will give children greater courage and guidance in facing the increasing difficulties of living a Christian life. Finally, it will allow for more opportunities for parents to take greater responsibility in their role as the primary educators of their children.

Calling all crafters of hand-made goods ...

**The first deadline for St. Luke's
annual juried Christmas Craft Fair is May 7th!**

We're still looking for new and exciting vendors for this popular annual event. It's a great platform for crafters who might just be starting up, as well as for seasoned crafters who want to reach new shopping audiences.

Work must be original and executed by the applicant.

We expect to be oversubscribed, so don't delay!

If you — or someone you know — is especially crafty,
please apply by contacting Craft Fair at:

stlukenhfair@gmail.com

Applications are also available at *<http://stlukenh.org>*
under "News and Events."

**St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
11th Annual Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday, November 10, 2018
9:00 am—3:00 pm**



It's never too early to start saving your donations for...

**St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
11th Annual Juried Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday, November 10, 2018**

Set-up Thursday November 8th and Friday November 9th

Please save the dates and start saving your donations.

The PENNY SALE and THEME BASKET tables are actively seeking early donations for the Christmas Fair.

Their wish list includes: Gift Cards, Gift Certificates, NEW or LIKE NEW items as well as assembled Theme Baskets.

As you spring clean this season, please begin setting aside items you believe fit their needs.

Be sure to label your donations as PENNY SALE or THEME BASKET and drop them off to Joyce Szczapa at the Religious Education office under the church Sunday through Wednesday.

**If you can, lend a hand to plan and run the Fair...
contact Julie Lamere at stlukenhfair@gmail.com
with "Fair Help" in the subject line.**

Thank you very much!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Cornerstone

Almighty and ever-living God,
you reveal your great love for us in your
Son, Jesus.

By his dying and rising,
we have been made your children
and so, we lift our voices to give thanks
for your goodness.

May Christ the cornerstone,
provide us with the strength
and courage

to build up your Kingdom.

Grant us a faith and love
that moves us to lay aside our desires
in order to work for justice.

Implant your will deep within
our hearts

so that, we offer all that we are to you
and for your glory.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

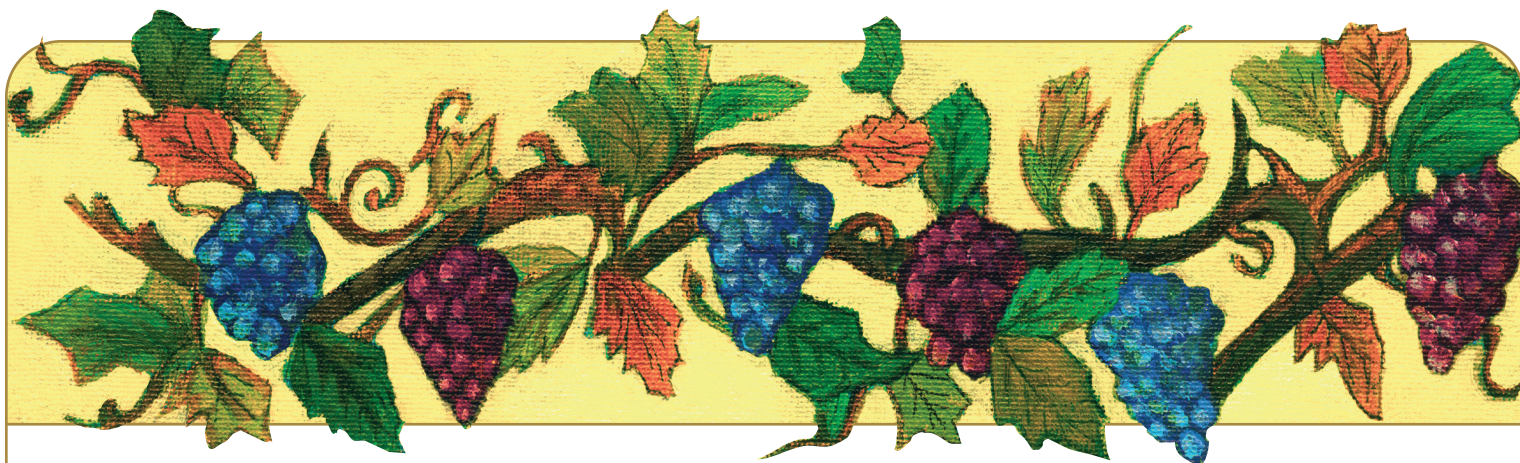
Sunday, April 22, 2018 The Rejected Cornerstone



Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 4:8–12; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29; 1 John 3:1–2; John 10:11–18. Together, the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on the saving power of God. Many thought that the Messiah would usher in war, and once he conquered, would reign as a powerful king. Jesus' reign is one of peace and love. The images our readings provide are that of a rejected stone and a shepherd. When Peter is confronted about the healing of the cripple, he tells the Jewish leaders that they are like builders who put aside a stone unfit for building. The reality is, they didn't examine it closely enough, and the stone that they reject is the Messiah. Think about the brutality Jesus suffered and the confrontations he experienced. The one who

saves is the one who many humiliated and hunted down. Jesus is the foundation that keeps us from collapsing.

Similarly, in the Gospel, Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays aside everything for his sheep. Jesus isn't the warrior some were expecting, but a loving Savior in whom we take refuge. In the name of this unexpected Savior, the cripple was healed and we are healed. Who in our communities, like Jesus, is rejected or ignored? Reach out to those and help them know they are loved and have gifts to share in building up the Kingdom. Engage in some active imagination with the image of Christ the cornerstone. How does this image comfort or challenge you?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 23

The Gate

The Gospel shows Jesus as the gate through which people must enter to be saved. Imagine a gate. It can keep things in or out. It has the potential to protect. By his death and Resurrection, Jesus has opened the Kingdom of Heaven. By uniting ourselves to him, we enter into his sheepfold. Meditate on Jesus as the gate, and see how he leads you to the Kingdom. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 5; John 10:1-10.*

Tuesday, April 24

All Nations

In the Scriptures, reference to the Gentiles usually is a reference for all non-Jewish people. Our First Reading helps depict how the Church is growing beyond Jerusalem and spreading to all nations, even the Greeks. As disciples, we are called to give witness to Christ the Shepherd to all peoples. In your prayer today, include a petition that all nations might know the peace and love of Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30.*

Wednesday, April 25

Feast of St. Mark

Today's readings provide three ideas on which to reflect. First, in the Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles to preach to all nations. Second, Peter tells us to be sober and vigilant in order to remain steadfast in faith. Third, the Psalm invites us to praise for all God has done for us. Be attentive to Christ's presence as you share time with another today. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20.*

Thursday, April 26

Bold and Confident

Scripture's portrayal of Paul is bold and confident. As Paul speaks to the people in the synagogue, he recounts Israel's history, showing that Jesus is the Chosen One sent by God, the One foretold by the prophets. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to share your faith boldly? We are heirs of God's promise who go forth sharing the Good News. We are the messengers Christ has sent. Send a message of Good News to a friend to reconnect. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; John 13:16-20.*

Friday, April 27

Light and Path

God truly has kept his promise by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus is the true light of life and the path of salvation and anyone who comes to him becomes a child of God. If you were sitting in the synagogue listening to Paul preach, how might you have responded? Paul invites unbelievers to follow the Light and believers to show forth the Light. Spend time praying with the Psalm refrain. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14: 1-6.*

Saturday, April 28

Jealousy

In the First Reading, the Jews are jealous of the crowds who gather to hear Paul and Barnabas. Jealousy is a problem. It can lead one to embrace malice. The disciples teach us a lesson by dusting their feet and moving on. When have you felt jealous and what incited those feelings? Dialogue with Jesus about a time you were jealous and hear his advice. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:44-52; Psalm 98, 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 14:7-14.*



The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

4th Sunday of Easter • April 22, 2018 • Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

Sunday Readings: Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: Who leads you? Whom do you follow?

Gospel Question: How do you implement a good shepherd's leadership and care in your work?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Locally or globally, where do you see the best examples of leaders who are shepherds?

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What makes a good leader?

Gospel Question: How is Jesus like a good shepherd? How are you like a good shepherd?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: What do you know about where your favorite vegetables are grown and who plants and cultivates them?

Gospel Question: How is the relationship between a shepherd and sheep like the relationship between Jesus and his Father?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: How do you and your family try to live green?

Gospel Question: How is Jesus like a good shepherd?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What are some ways you can care for Creation?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus care for people?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: Do you have a pet? How do you care for your pet?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus care for you?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

Jesus says, "I know my sheep." He tells us that we belong to him and he will lay down his life for us. Jesus reminds us how important we are to him, so important that he died and rose again so we can go to Heaven someday.

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

Listen to the hymns at church today. Do the lyrics mention anything about listening to Jesus' voice or him listening to us?

Question of the Week

How do you recognize when Jesus calls you?



Family Prayer

Teach us, Lord, to hear your voice and answer you.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Jesús dice: "Conozco a mis ovejas". Nos dice que pertenecemos a él y que dará su vida por nosotros. Jesús nos recuerda lo importantes que somos para él, tan importantes que murió y resucitó nuevamente para que podamos ir al Cielo algún día.

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/readings para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Escuchen los himnos hoy en la iglesia. ¿Las letras mencionan algo sobre escuchar la voz de Jesús o que él nos escucha?

Pregunta de la semana

¿Cómo reconoces cuando Jesús te llama?



Oración en familia

Señor, enséñanos a escuchar tu voz y responderte.

✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.



STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

The Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

Main Center

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

www.pccnortheast.org

Helpline: 866-254-4440



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or ddemers@aviconpartners.com.

RETRouvaille...A Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.





Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter | April 22, 2018

Our Good Shepherd

By Mary Katharine Deeley

My mother lived for a time on a ranch in Texas. The ranch had cattle and sheep. My mother told me that sheep are pretty dumb and need a lot of care. She had great respect for the ranch hands who patiently got them out to pasture and then rounded them up when it was time to come in. Left to their own devices, she said, sheep would be easy prey for coyotes, foxes, and bobcats that roam the hill country.

Sheep were important for many families living in first-century Palestine as well. They provided food, clothing, milk, and a source of income.

A good shepherd was worth his weight in gold, because he spent his days with the sheep, leading them to pasture, protecting them from harm, and finding them when they got lost.

Shepherds may not have had a high social status, but it would have been hard to live without them.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does all these things for his flock, and then goes even further: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

The ranch hands my mother talked about would have grieved over a dead sheep but wouldn't have died trying to save it. They made sure the sheep were watered and fed, but they didn't make the sheep's lives more abundant.

But we have abundant life because Jesus laid down his life for us. He is our Good Shepherd. Can we ask anything more?

Is the Lord with you today? +

Sunday Readings

Acts 4:8–12

[Peter said,] "He is the stone rejected by you ... which has become the cornerstone."

1 Jn 3:1–2

Beloved, we are God's children now;

Jn 10:11–18

[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

A Word From Pope Francis

The grave environmental crisis facing our world demands an ever greater sensitivity to the relationship between human beings and nature. We have a responsibility to pass on the beauty of nature in its integrity to future generations, and an obligation to exercise a just stewardship of the gifts we have received.

—Visit to Kenya,
November 25, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Jesus, how well do I imitate your love by sacrificing for others?
- Do I seek salvation, peace, and healing from Jesus?



Treasuring Sabbath Time

By Kathy Coffey

*Third Commandment: "Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy"
(Exodus 20:8).*

We've all gotten a Great Idea in the shower, on the bus, at the gym, or staring into space. We might suddenly remember where we left the keys, decide what's for dinner, or solve a problem that's been annoying us. The mind relishes empty spaces, becoming more creative in decluttered stretches.

If that is true in daily life, the Third Commandment shows how rest is even more important for our spiritual lives. The root meaning of the word *sabbath* is "to separate." It marks the end of one week and the start of another, or the close of work and the beginning of play.

As soon as a good directive like this is given, people exaggerate it. Some folks really ran amok with this one, even to the extreme of forbidding doing good on the Sabbath. Religious authorities spun into a frenzy when Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Clear-sighted as always, he reminded us: "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). In other words, if it helps you live a more fulfilled life, do it. If you're going through contortions to keep a law and losing compassion in the process, forget it.

How delightful when the commandments, carved solemnly on stone and written in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, usually a grave document, both tell us to relax, lighten up.

Ready, Set, Go

For many of us, Sunday has become the "junk drawer" of the week: We cram in all the errands and duties that can't get done because of work pressures every other day. Retailers are happy to accommodate, and Sunday becomes Shopping Day.

What's wrong with this? It's not the greatest moral evil, but we could do better. In this pattern, we lose sight of what we were made to be: God's delight. We forget that we have abundant blessings and should take time to savor them, awash in gratitude.

The original meaning of the Sabbath was the day set aside for Israel to honor its covenant with God. Today, one way to observe it is with Sunday Mass. Sabbath time also reminds us that God is eager to have our attention and quick to pour out graces. When we clear our calendars and minds, we remember who we are, just as if we are making a retreat.

And if we don't? If we keep cranking out work and churning out errands, we look like responsible, tax-paying citizens. But by giving up quiet Sabbath time, we dehumanize ourselves and lose sight of what's most important. We were all made for loving God and each other. Other accomplishments are fine, but don't measure up to that.

Clearing Space for God

Some people may protest: "But I'm working three jobs to feed my family! Where am I supposed to fit in Sabbath?" For those who are this tightly scheduled, maybe it becomes an hour before the kids wake up or after they go to bed. Maybe it's time in the evening without television or computer. There are as many ways to keep holy the Sabbath as there are people. In such times we remember we are God's beloved, and no matter what life throws at us, nothing else is as fundamentally important.

Modeling a sense of Sabbath is especially important for parents. What do we want our children to remember? Mornings when the family snuggled in pajamas, built blanket caves, held tickling contests, and cooked something delicious? Or the fact that Mom and Dad dourly trooped off to work like robots? +

PRAYER

Risen Lord, you are the Good Shepherd who watches over us and protects us from all harm. Give me the courage to be a loving shepherd and advocate for the poor and vulnerable.

From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost,

Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 23–28, 2018

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:1–10


Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday, St. Mark, Evangelist:
1 Pt 5:5b–14 / Mk 16:15–20

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 13:44–52 / Jn 14:7–14

Bringing Home
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