



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, June 24, 2018
The Nativity Of Saint John
The Baptist

4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Gathering: Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones BB 719
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation A Voice Cries Out BB 44

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Eye Has Not Seen BB 462
Like A Shepherd BB 607

Recessional: Blessed Feasts Of Blessed Martyrs
BB 721

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 by email at jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net or by calling 603-382-8324. 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>. Thank you.

Support our
ADVERTISERS
this
Summer



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

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR

JUNE 17, 2018

WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 24, 2018	Works of the Holy Father
July 1, 2018	Property Management
July 8, 2018	No Second Collection
July 15, 2018	Fuel

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 ✠

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Due to the Independence Day holiday, **the July 8, 2018 bulletin must be submitted early.** The deadline for items to be included in the July 8 bulletin is **12:00 Noon on Tuesday, June 26.** Thank you for your cooperation!



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

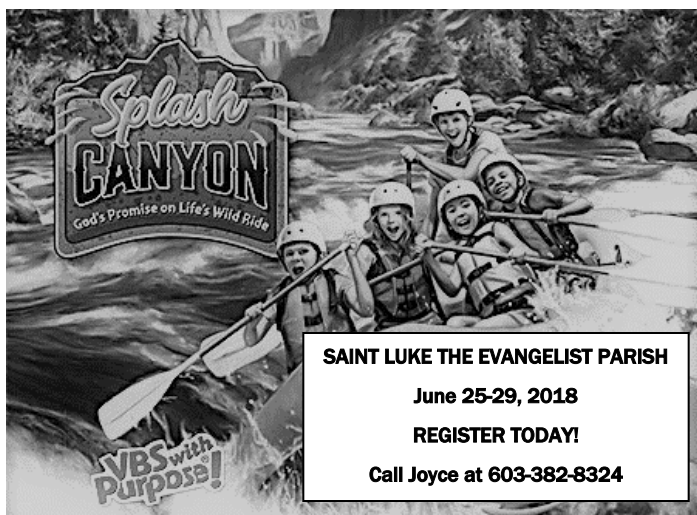
Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow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

How can you help?

Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

June 25-29, 2018

REGISTER TODAY!

Call Joyce at 603-382-8324

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

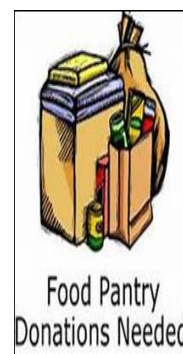
HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

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

WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...

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

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Monday, June 25</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	Plaistow
<u>Tuesday, June 26</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	Plaistow
<u>Wednesday, June 27</u> HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	Plaistow
<u>Thursday, June 28</u>		
8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	Newton
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	Plaistow
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	Newton
<u>Friday, June 29</u>		
9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School	Plaistow
<u>Saturday, June 30</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow

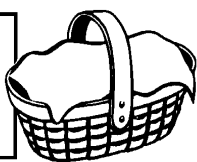


Find us on:
facebook®

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**



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

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

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box
on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those
who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, July 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, June 23 ~ Vigil / Nativity of John the Baptist *Jer 1:4-10; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17*

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

Sunday, June 24 ~ The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist *Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80*

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Cathy Smith
Newton

10:00 AM John Leone and Richard St. Pierre
by their family
Plaistow

Monday, June 25 ~ Weekday *2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Mt 7:1-5*

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, June 26 ~ Weekday *2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Mt 7:6, 12-14*

8:00 AM Mary Duhamel by her family
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 27 ~ Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

2 Kgs 22:8-13, 23:1-3; Mt 7:15-20
6:30 PM Robert Giallongo by Knights of Columbus,
St. Jude Council #6617
Plaistow

Thursday, June 28 ~ Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr *2 Kgs 24:8-17; Mt 7:21-29*

8:00 AM Heather Decareau (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, June 29 ~ Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles *Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19* **No Mass**

Saturday, June 30 ~ First Martyrs of Holy Roman Church *Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Mt 8:5-17 (Day)*

Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Cor 8:7-9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43
(Vigil)

4:00 PM Michael Del Core by the Parish
Plaistow

Sunday, July 1 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Cor 8:7-9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43*

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Alex and Joyce Szczapa
Newton

10:00 AM Frank Kelcourse (Birthday Remembrance)
by Elaine Kelcourse

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 ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week for
**The Intentions Of The
Daniels Family**

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. **RCIA** is intended to serve:

- Those not Baptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those Baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those Baptized Catholic but have not been raised in the Faith.

If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, July 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. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

QUO VADIS DAYS

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

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

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

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	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 Szapa	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 ✠

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ESSAY CONTEST

Are you 18-25 years of age as of January 2019? Would you like to grow your resume by demonstrating your leadership representing the United States as a representative at the International Young Franciscan (YouFra) Convention in Panama in January 2019? Would you like to go to World Youth Day in Panama with most of your costs paid? If the answer is "yes," then the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region of Secular Franciscans would like to invite you to apply for an opportunity to do just this. See the flyer on the church bulletin board or go to our web site:

<http://stelizabethofs.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FYYA-Essay-Flyer.pdf>

CLOSINGS & CANCELLATIONS

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Wednesday, July 4 and Thursday, July 5.**

Holy Angels Church in Plaistow will **NOT** be open for prayer on **Wednesday, July 4.**

There will be **NO Adoration** in Newton on Thursday, July 5.

There will be **NO Daily Liturgies on July 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2018.** There will also be **NO Daily Liturgies on July 9, 10, 11, 12, 2018.**



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.

LOVE THE WORD RETREAT

St. Kathryn Parish in Hudson, NH presents a very special two-day event, a Love the Word™ Retreat, featuring Sonja Corbitt, the Bible Study Evangelist in her only upcoming Northeast appearance on **Friday, September 21, 2018, beginning at 7:00 PM and on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.** All are invited to join them for what promises to be a fulfilling and uplifting retreat. Through Sonja's dynamic and powerful speaking, she will ignite your Faith through four inspiring talks. Throughout the two days, you'll encounter Christ through music, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, prayer, and the unique and inspiring way Sonja brings the Scriptures to life with lively study followed by breaks for quiet reflection using her own Love the Word™ technique. \$25 Saturday Admission Price. Please call 603-882-7793 or visit www.stkathryns.org for further details and to purchase tickets.

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.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

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



DAY OF CARING

The Rock Church in Plaistow invites you to join them for a Day Of Caring on **Saturday, June 30.** They are in need of volunteers to participate in community projects in the towns of Sandown, Atkinson, and Plaistow, NH as well as in Haverhill and Amesbury, MA. Following the work projects, all are invited to 90 Newton Road in Plaistow for a BBQ, concert, and lots of fun activities for the children. For more information, visit www.ForOurCommunity.org.

CYCLE FOR SHELTER

To Benefit Emmaus House

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players*

Based on the multi-part film series from WORD ON FIRE

As stated by WORD ON FIRE: “You will discover the life and contributions of saints, artist, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church, but changed the course of civilization.”

“We will discover the places where St. Thomas Aquinas lived, learned, and wrote. We will visit the countryside where St. Francis gathered a group of friars and revived the Church. This series will show us the places where St. Catherine of Siena ministered and prayed. We will travel through England to where John Henry Newman and G.K. Chesterton left their mark and sparked an English Catholic revival. We will see the extraordinary art of Michelangelo.”

If you are interested in joining a group for six weeks either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning July 11, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning July 12, please cut the form off at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or at the parish office no later than Monday, July 9. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or at 382-8324.

Both groups will meet in the Church Hall

A reminder will be in the bulletin the weekend before we begin.

“CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players*”

Name _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Wed., July 11–August 15, at 7 p.m. _____ Thurs., July 12–August 16, at 1:30 p.m. _____

✠ 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 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.



Bringing Home the Word

Nativity of St. John the Baptist | June 24, 2018

God's Calling for Us

By Janel Esker

Expectant parents the world over have one task in common—naming their newborns. Some mothers-to-be have kept a list of favorite baby names since adolescence. Other parents can't imagine naming their child until they lay eyes on their little one after birth. Some survey friends and family. My four-year-old nephew Alexander proclaimed that if his cousin-to-be was a girl, she should obviously be named Pizzahead. We thanked him and noted we would take his suggestion under, uh, consideration.

People often have much to say, sometimes quite vehemently, about the choice of a baby's name. It was no different for John the Baptist's mother. When Elizabeth announced that his name would be John, the name given him by the angel Gabriel, neighbors protested that this wasn't a family name and it couldn't possibly be appropriate. But his father, Zechariah, confirmed this heavenly chosen name. Word spread quickly of something quite special, even divine, about this child. Everyone wondered what he would become.

We know indeed what John became—the herald of Jesus' coming. Particularly special about John was his willingness to embrace his calling while recognizing that his mission was not about himself; rather, it was to direct others toward Jesus. He confidently claimed his vocation, but he was humble enough to know his life wasn't about himself.

Whether your name is John, Mary, or even Pizzahead, God has a calling for each of us—but it isn't about promoting ourselves or our needs. It's ultimately for the service of the Lord.

Are we strong enough to claim our calling—and humble enough to serve? +

A Word From Pope Francis

Our mission [is] to identify the material and immaterial needs of the people and try to meet them as we can. Do you know what *agape* is? It is love of others, as our Lord preached. It is not proselytizing, it is love. Love for one's neighbor, that leavening that serves the common good.

—Interview with *La Repubblica*,
October 1, 2013



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 49:1–6

Before birth the LORD called me, from my mother's womb he gave me my name.

Acts 13:22–26

[John said,] "Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet."

Luke 1:57–66, 80

Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Do I have a strong sense of God's mission for my life? What might be some of the elements?
- How have I benefited from other people who have been generous with their own mission?



Ours Is a We Religion

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

One reason I am Catholic is because Catholicism is a healthy corrective to the way I would prefer to live and pray. Catholicism is a *we* religion, about community.

Why do I consider Catholicism a healthy corrective? Here's an example: Three times a week I go to the gym for an aerobics class. When the alarm rings in the morning, I'd much rather stay in bed, but I'm convinced that, even though I don't like it, exercise is more healthy than sitting in front of the computer all day, typing with one hand and eating with the other. And just as the gym is an antidote to my inactivity and overeating, Catholicism is a healthy corrective for my American individualism.

There are many wonderful things about living in America. But besides being the land of the free and home of the brave, America is also the land of the "Lone Ranger." Americans love our individual freedom and independence—not only in the way we live, but also in the way we worship.

Studies show that Americans, regardless of their religious denomination, like to be independent in their beliefs: I decide what I want to believe, and how to pray. Identifying with an established denomination (Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and so forth) is not important

for most Americans, who tend to move easily from one church to another. Conversion and salvation are understood as deeply personal, individual experiences. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, / That saved a wretch like me! / I once was lost, but now am found; / Was blind but now I see." Yes, American religion is about *I, me, and my*.

Community: The Heart of It

Our religion is a healthy corrective to the excess individualism of American religion because Catholic identity is essentially collective. All of our official Catholic prayers are first-person plural: *we, us, and our*. At Mass we pray: "Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.... Grant that we, who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ" (Eucharistic Prayer III).

Family and community are at the heart of our Catholic identity because the very God we worship is a triune community of love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The principal petition at every Eucharist is not for some individual gift of grace but for the gift of unity, the grace to become one body, one spirit in Christ. We pray that we become family, community, and Church.

Jesus' Mission—and Ours

As Christ's Body the Church, we together are to continue Christ's mission to the world. It is not about what I want, but what Christ, in his body the Church, wants. Together with the whole Church we pray: *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.*

Personally, I don't always find this community aspect of Catholicism comfortable. Often I would rather pray how I want. I get upset when community needs disturb the way I have always prayed. Why do I have to listen to the Bible proclaimed in Spanish at Mass just because the neighborhood is changing? I like to sing but I am not comfortable singing a hymn in Korean.

But in a deeper place, I want to welcome and be considerate of my sisters and brothers because I know that what is most comfortable for me isn't always what is best for my growth. It's more comfortable to stay in bed than to get up and exercise. I realize when I need a healthy corrective. +

PRAYER

Lord, you are always near.
Deepen my faith in your
goodness and love
so I may be a sign of faith.


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

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 25–30, 2018

Monday, Weekday:
2 Kgs 17:5–8, 13–15a, 18 / Mt 7:1–5
Tuesday, Weekday: 2 Kgs 19:9b–11,
14–21, 31–35a, 36 / Mt 7:6, 12–14
Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Kgs 22:8–13; 23:1–3 / Mt 7:15–20

Thursday, St. Irenaeus:
2 Kgs 24:8–17 / Mt 7:21–29
Friday, Sts. Peter and Paul: Acts 12:1–11 /
2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19
Saturday, Weekday:
Lam 2:2, 10–14, 18–19 / Mt 8:5–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
June 24, 2018

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