



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, July 1, 2018
Thirteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: Come, Christians, Join To Sing BB 548

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 523

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 324
I Received The Living God BB 327

Recessional: Sing, O Sing BB 551

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 jtremblay@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!

June 17, 2018

Offertory	\$5,769.47
Fuel	\$1,852.00

June 24, 2018

Offertory	\$6,109.12
Works of the Holy Father	\$1,685.25

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

July 1, 2018

Property Management

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 ✠

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mark Bloom
Richard Faucher
Virginia Marciello



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

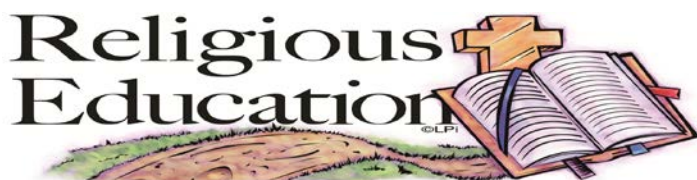
Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow 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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Registration for the 2018-2019 Academic Year for Grades 1 to 8 has begun. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call Joyce Szczapa in the Religious Education Office at 603-382-8324 for more information.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Joyce at jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net.

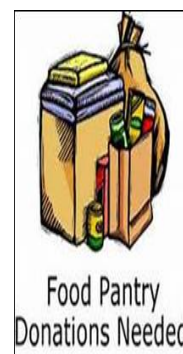
HOSPITAL VISITATION

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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Monday, July 2
NO DAILY MASS

Tuesday, July 3
NO DAILY MASS

Wednesday, July 4
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH CLOSED
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NO DAILY MASS

Thursday, July 5
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NO ADORATION
NO DAILY MASS

Saturday, July 7
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

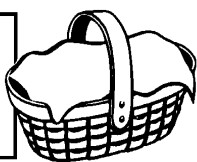


Find us on:
facebook®

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 30 ~ Vigil / 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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
Plaistow

Monday, July 2 ~ Weekday

Am 2:6-10, 13-16; Mt 8:18-22
No Mass

Tuesday, July 3 ~ Thomas, Apostle

Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29
No Mass

Wednesday, July 4 ~ Weekday

Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Mt 8:28-34
No Mass

Thursday, July 5 ~ Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; Elizabeth of Portugal

Am 7:10-17; Mt 9:1-8
No Mass

Friday, July 6 ~ Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Mt 9:9-13
No Mass

Saturday, July 7 ~ Weekday

Am 9:11-15; Mt 9:14-17 (Day)
Ez 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mt 6:1-6a (Vigil)

4:00 PM Stanley Plonowski by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, July 8 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mt 6:1-6a

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Knights of Columbus,
St. Jude Council #6617
Newton

10:00 AM Deana Carbone (2nd Anniversary)
by Verna Carbone
Plaistow

PRAYER LINE

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick,
injured, or suffering in any way.

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.

JULY 1, 2018

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

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** and on **July 9, 10, 11, 12, 2018.**

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

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 ✠



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

What is the status of “The Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen” and “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission” in Salem and “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Convent” in Atkinson?

A group which calls itself “The Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen” (“CMRI”) has established a church in Salem by the name of “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission.” On its website, this group indicates that it offers the Tridentine Rite Mass (sometimes referred to as the “Traditional” or “Latin” Mass), Catechism classes for children, and Confessions and other sacraments.

This group and this church are not Catholic, and do not have the right to call themselves Catholic.

CMRI is not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and the sacraments they claim to offer have no validity in the Roman Catholic Church. **Catholics are not permitted to receive the sacraments from CMRI ministers under any circumstances, nor should they participate in any activity provided by this group.**

The members of CMRI are what are called “*sedevacantists*,” meaning that they believe that the current pope is not truly the pope and that the See of St. Peter is vacant. They believe that there has not been a pope in the Catholic Church since the death of Saint John XXIII, and therefore do not recognize any subsequent pope, including Pope Francis, as head of the Church.

For those who have a desire to attend a celebration of the Tridentine Rite Mass within the Church in union with the Holy See, visit the Diocese of Manchester website for a listing of Latin Masses.

If you have any questions about the relationship between CMRI and the Roman Catholic Church, please contact Father Albert, or the Diocese of Manchester.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

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.**



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.

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER
Beach Day – All Ages Welcome!

Jesus aCross The Border will hold its monthly gathering on **Saturday, July 7** at St. Patrick’s Church in Hampton, NH. The day will begin at 10:00 AM. There will be activities scheduled throughout the day. The evening component begins at 7:30 PM with Eucharistic Adoration and acoustic Praise & Worship. Holy Mass will follow at 9:00 PM with Fr. Von DeRosia as the main celebrant. Mass will be followed by a late night social of visiting the Beach Arcades. For more information, go to www.JESUSaCROSStheBorder.org

**Cathedral Of Saint Joseph Choir
and
Saint Anselm College Choir**

**SINGING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD:
A CELEBRATION OF THE
DIVINE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT**

**Featuring the choral music of:
Thompson, Byrd, Stanford, Biebl, Bainton, Gjeilo,
Gray, Finzi, Nestor and Stopford**

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM

**Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Corner of Pine and Lowell Streets
Manchester, New Hampshire
603-622-6404, ext 31**

Free-will offering at the door

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. _____

✠ 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

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | July 1, 2018

Saved by Faith Alone

By Mary Katharine Deeley

A fourth-century legend from Catholics in the Eastern part of the Roman Empire tells us the name of the woman in today's Gospel is Beronike. A woman of great faith, she knew that the law considered her unclean because she had a flow of blood and no one could touch her. When she saw Jesus, she didn't ask him to touch or even speak to her. She didn't want him to feel what she felt—outcast and isolated. She simply believed that touching his garment would bring her relief.

A couple of weeks ago, St. Paul told us that we walk by faith, not by sight. Faith was all this woman had to go on; everything else had failed. What she heard about Jesus stirred something in her soul, and she followed her convictions. She wasn't disappointed. The power of Christ, who heals us of whatever wounds us deeply, went out immediately to her who dared to hope. When he called out to see who touched him, her fear didn't keep her away. She was saved by faith alone.

Being saved doesn't always mean miraculous cures, but it does involve standing before Christ as we are—bleeding, broken, sinful—and trusting that he is our answer. We don't know for sure what happened to the woman. But her legend continued.

When Jesus carried his cross to his crucifixion, a woman stepped out to stop the flow of blood and sweat streaking his face. We know her by the Latin translation of Beronike—Veronica—which carries with it an additional meaning: “true icon,” in reference to the facial image that Jesus left on her cloth. +

Faith was all this woman had to go on; everything else had failed.

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 1:13–15; 2:23–24

God formed us to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made us.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13–15

He became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Mark 5:21–43 or 5:21–24, 35b–43

[Jesus] took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

A Word From Pope Francis

Countless people suffer trials and injustice, and live in anxiety. Our hearts need anointing with God's consolation, which does not take away our problems, but gives us the power to love, to peacefully bear pain. Receiving and bringing God's consolation: this mission of the Church is urgent.

—Homily in Tbilisi, Georgia,
October 1, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How can I better embrace the challenging moments in my life rather than rebel or run from them?
- How can I better accept and let go of those things that cause me pain?



The Power of the Meek

By Donald Senior, CP

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land (Matthew 5:5).

As a boy I remember seeing the ad about the “weakling” shamed by a bully who kicks beach sand in his face, then walks off with his girlfriend. Only when the weakling decides to lift weights to build muscles is he ready to bop the bully on the chin and reclaim his “prize.” The meek inherit the earth? No way!

Few of the beatitudes confront our cultural values so directly. In today’s geopolitics, the land belongs to the strong, not the meek. In the Bible, the same equation played out daily: Both sides believe that the only language their opponent understands is force.

What can Jesus mean in the third beatitude of Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount? The Greek word translated as “meek” is *praus*, and its meaning is not meekness in the sense of unassertiveness—as the English term can imply—but as powerlessness or defenselessness. When one sees tattered lines of Syrian refugees or staring eyes of starving African children, their plight is not one of being “meek” in the sense of shy or retiring, but of being without power or resources and, therefore, terribly vulnerable. By extension, the word can also move beyond the level of one’s social condition and refer to a lack of pretense or arrogance, a gentleness and authentic humility that comes from

understanding that ultimately one’s life and power depend upon God.

Biblical Vision

Jesus’ beatitude is a quotation from Psalm 37:11: “But the poor will inherit the earth, will delight in great prosperity,” and taps into a strong biblical vision. Because the Israelites were people of the land, their dreams for peace often included longing for a time when the land’s bounty would not be destroyed and all could live together peacefully.

Particularly beautiful is the vision of the future in Isaiah: “They shall build houses and live in them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit; They shall not build and others live there; they shall not plant and others eat. As the years of a tree, so the years of my people; and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the work of their hands” (65:21–22).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus also envisions a kingdom of God where peace and justice abound, where God’s children have a place of security and joy. This is the powerful dream Jesus summons up early in his ministry. Blessed are the meek, the powerless, the downtrodden, because in God’s reign they will not remain disenfranchised but will inherit the land. The Gospel’s vision of a just future that reverses oppression now

extends beyond Israel to the whole earth, encompassing all those whose lives and hopes are threatened and who have no resource to lean on other than God’s providence.

Embraced by Jesus

What is remarkable in the Gospel of Matthew is that Jesus himself throws his lot with people like this. He describes himself as “meek and humble of heart” (11:29) and the evangelist cites the words of the prophet Zechariah, emphasizing the paradox of Jesus the king entering Jerusalem on a donkey. “Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass...” (Matthew 21:5, citing Zechariah 9:9). Jesus’ mission is to identify with the least (21:35–46), to teach and heal that they might have justice, and to exemplify the virtues of gentleness and humility that the Spirit of God instills.

Without fail, Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount summons us to take stock of our values from God’s point of view. +

PRAYER

Lord, you promise eternal life
to all who believe in you.
Give me the courage to be
an advocate for life.


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

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 2-7, 2018

Monday, Weekday:
Am 2:6–10, 13–16 / Mt 8:18–22
Tuesday, St. Thomas:
Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29
Wednesday, Weekday:
Am 5:14–15, 21–24 / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, Weekday:
Am 7:10–17 / Mt 9:1–8
Friday, Weekday:
Am 8:4–6, 9–12 / Mt 9:9–13
Saturday, Weekday:
Am 9:11–15 / Mt 9:14–17

Bringing Home
the Word 
July 1, 2018

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