

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, July 15, 2018
Fifteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Praise The Lord, Ye Heavens BB 532
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)
The Lord is kind and merciful. (2x)

Preparation Be Not Afraid BB 432
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation
 Communion Bread For The World BB 351
 I Am The Bread Of Life BB 364
 Recessional: Go Make Of All Disciples BB 184

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 415
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)
I will praise your name, my King and my God. (2x)

Preparation We Are Many Parts BB 583
 Be Not Afraid BB 432
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation
 Communion Our Blessing Cup BB 363
 Pescador de Hombres BB 504
 Recessional: Sing A New Song BB 544

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.

✠ 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!

	<u>July 1, 2018</u>	
Offertory		\$6,865.72
Property Management		\$1,633.88
	<u>July 8, 2018</u>	
Offertory		\$7,317.70

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 15, 2018	Fuel
July 22, 2018	Parish to Parish Support

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 ✠

THANK YOU

"It is with a heart filled with gratitude that I come to say 'Thank You' for the support and friendship of the past 22 years. It has been a blessing to a part of this parish family. Thank you to those who were able to attend the Farewell Mass and Gathering. Thank you for the many cards, prayers, and well wishes. May we always be united in prayer as we all continue to serve the Lord, each in our various callings. God bless you all!"

Sr. Doris Ducharme, pm



**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 Pre-K through 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

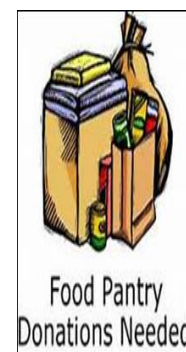
Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Joyce at jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Tuesday, July 17
6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, July 18
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER
7:00 PM Scripture Share – Pivotal Players *Plaistow*
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, July 19
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
1:30 PM Scripture Share – Pivotal Players *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

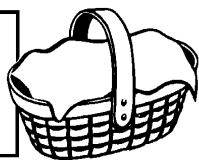
Saturday, July 21
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*



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, July 14 ~ Vigil / 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13

4:00 PM Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond
Plaistow

Sunday, July 15 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by the Lumnah Family
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

Monday, July 16 ~ Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34-11:1

8:00 AM Ron Metcalf by Barbara and children
Newton

Tuesday, July 17 ~ Weekday

Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24

8:00 AM Lorraine Crowley by Janice Bettencourt
Plaistow

Wednesday, July 18 ~ Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Mt 11:25-27

6:30 PM Robert Giallongo by Knights of Columbus,
St. Jude Council #6617
Plaistow

Thursday, July 19 ~ Weekday

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 1:28-30

8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Friday, July 20 ~ Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8

No Mass

**Saturday, July 21 ~ Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and
Doctor of the Church**

Mi 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21 (Day)

Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Phil Consentino
by Raymond and Beverley Viglione
Plaistow

Sunday, July 22 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Colleen & Mark Hammond
Newton

10:00 AM Ralph Santangelo by his family
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.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

**ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS,
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS**

Re: Scheduling for September 1 to November 25

Jeanne Sullivan needs to be notified **by August 13** regarding the Masses at which you either wish to serve and/or cannot serve **from September 1 to November 25**. Thank you for your input, and as always, for the wonderful service you perform for the Parish. Please contact Jeanne directly at 382-4760 or jmsul@myfairpoint.net.

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, August 5, 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	Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314	Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315	Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949	Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Preschool	382-9783	Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744	Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
		Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
		Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE PROGRAM

REACH in, out and up this summer! St. Thomas Aquinas High School is inviting **all rising 7th, 8th and 9th grade students** to an overnight leadership and service program that offers a hands-on service experience, faith learning, community reflection, and summertime fun.

Dates: August 6-9 (overnight)
Location: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 197 Dover Point Rd., Dover NH
Cost: \$250 (financial assistance is available)
Register: www.stalux.org

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.

SIA

What is SIA? One CDC report says that two out of five men and three out of five women were sexually abused/molested. The S.I.A. (Survivors of Incest Anonymous) is a 12-step spiritual program that provides support and healing for those who were sexually molested/abused as children *regardless of who the perpetrator was.* If you were harmed as a child, please consider attending these meetings. Meetings take place every Saturday at 6:00 PM at Mary Queen of Peace Church Hall in Salem, NH. For more information, you can EMAIL SIAsouthernNH@aol.com, TEXT 508-982-9104, CALL 603-898-1318 or go to the WEBSITE www.SIAWSO.org.

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.amazonmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH 11TH ANNUAL JURIED CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, November 10, 2018**

You can be a big help by donating some of these things:
Children's Corner & the Lollipop Game need:

- A wide variety of new small & medium-sized prizes (toys and/or games for boys & girls), plus one or two larger new prizes
- Lots & lots & lots of Tootsie Roll Pops (only Tootsie Roll Pops don't fall through the board game holes)

Sugar Cookie Decorating needs:

- Cookie decorations: mini-M&Ms, jimmies, sprinkles, mini-chocolate chips, etc.
- Tubs of ready-to-use spreadable chocolate and vanilla frosting
- Red, green, and white tube frosting

Donations may be brought to either church on October 27 and 28.

For further information, send a message to stlukenhfair@gmail.com or leave a message for Julie Lamere at the Parish Office: 603-382-8324. Thank you!

WEBSITE DESIGN

Our Pre-School-Kindergarten is looking for a website design. The site would feature information about the school and other related information. A great project for a student or beginner. Contact Fr. Albert if you are interested.

ST. JOSEPH REGISTRATION

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Tours are available throughout the summer by appointment. Come and learn about the many benefits of a Catholic school education, including our low student/teacher ratio. Ask about the CSF scholarship for transfer students. Questions? Contact Christine Latino at clatino@sjrcs.com or call 603-893-6811, ext 19.

**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**

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

FOOD DRIVE

JULY 14-15

School is out, vacation season is underway and it is time to stock up our Saint Luke Food Pantry!



Please consider bring a non-perishable food item or personal care product when you come to Church on July 14-15. We also welcome cash donations – please make out checks to *Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry*.

The pantry welcomes the following items:

Pasta

Ramen noodles

Rice

Peanut butter

Jelly / Jam

Pasta sauces

Rice a Roni mix

Cake/muffin/ mix

Brownie mix

Pancake mix & syrup

Mac & cheese

Cookies/crackers

Peanut butter & crackers

Goldfish or animal crackers

Canned beans

Canned fruit

Canned meats

(Non-perishable)

Tuna fish

Juice boxes

Canned pasta

Hamburger helper

Mashed potatoes mix

Sugar free jelly & jam

Gluten free items

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Shampoo

Deodorant

Soap

Laundry soap

Cleaning products

Diapers & wipes

- special need for these items!

**The Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry serves the hungry of our community - THROUGH YOU!
THANK YOU!**

Saint Luke the Evangelist

8 Atkinson Depot Road Plalstow, NH 03865 TEL (603) 382-8324 FAX (603) 382-1113

July, 2018

Dear Parishioners of Saint Luke the Evangelist,

We know that summer is just beginning, but **“BACK TO SCHOOL”** will be here before we know it.

The Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry currently services between 150-175 families a month from area towns. We want to put together a program to assist local families who are struggling financially with some of the extra expenses of back to school shopping.

We would like to supply families with gift cards to Walmart, Kohls, or TJ Maxx/Marshalls to help with back to school shopping. We are asking for your help. If you would like to assist families through the Pantry, you can:

- 1) Make a monetary donation (cash or check made out to “St Luke Food Pantry”) with a notation in memo “Back to School.” You can drop your donation at the Parish Office, or put it into the collection basket during Mass
- 2) You can obtain gift cards yourself and put them into an envelope labeled “Food Pantry - Back to School.” You can drop the cards off at the Parish Office or put them into the collection basket during Mass
- 3) You are also welcome to donate a “Back to School” backpack with school supplies included. You can bring those to Church or drop them off at the Parish Office.

A receipt can be issued for any donation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marie Farren at 603.819.4949. Thank you for your support!

“Together we can make a difference.”



Bringing Home the Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | July 15, 2018

Discerning God's Call

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Spiritually, discernment is the process of listening for and responding to God's call. It's a popular activity these days in churches, schools, and businesses. Discerning the right career, the right person for a job—or even the right person to marry—occupies a lot of adults. I often talk about discernment with college students because Catholic tradition has much to offer to the process.

We can draw some principles of discernment from our readings today. From Ephesians, we learn that God has

called us into the mission of Christ and to praise his glory in the world. Does the life you live now allow you to do that with a full heart? From Amos, we learn that God doesn't call only the ones we think are holy enough, brave enough, or religious enough. God calls all of us wherever he finds us. Amos was a dresser of sycamore trees. We might be teachers, parents, or students in school, but we are all part of Christ's mission by baptism. Finally, in Mark, we learn that mission is a communal affair. We are together in mission. We are to go into every house, depending on God to tell us what to do and give us what we need.

With our different gifts, we help each other spread God's word and love those we meet. Finally, we learn that not everyone will hear us, but we must not let that weigh us down. We must shake the dust from our feet and move on. These and other principles of discernment can apply no matter where we find ourselves along the road. How have you responded to God's call today? +

We might be teachers, parents, or students in school, but we are all part of Christ's mission.

Sunday Readings

Amos 7:12–15

[Amos said,] "I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamores, but ...the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Ephesians 1:3–14 or 1:3–10

In him we have redemption by his blood.

Mark 6:7–13

[Jesus said,] "Whatever place does not welcome you... leave there and shake the dust off your feet."

A Word From Pope Francis

Jesus himself tells us in no uncertain terms that we will be judged by the mercy we show to the poor: those who hunger and thirst, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and those in prison. Particularly in our prosperous societies, Christians are called to guard against the temptation of indifference.

—Jubilee Audience, June 30, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do I participate in the Church's mission of serving the poor?
- What more can I do to educate my children or others about this important subject?



Accepting That God Has Chosen Us

By Richard Rohr, OFM

It was not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you; for you are really the smallest of all peoples (Deuteronomy 7:7).

God has chosen us. That is simple and clear. But for us to accept that we are chosen is difficult, just as it was for Israel. God chooses each of us—not to “raise us up a notch,” but to lead us through necessary, transformative journeys so we can allow ourselves to be beloved, and to relish a mutual relationship. At Pentecost the Spirit is poured out on “all humankind” regardless of status.

The election of the Jews, God’s Chosen People, eventually becomes a message for the whole world and not something to keep them superior or apart. It will take the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Jesus himself, the rest of the Book of Acts, and the fierce ministry of Paul to resolve God’s universality. Because the implications of “one God who created all things” gradually became clear, they soon called this new religion “catholic.” Our attempts to limit this election have often made us more ethnic than catholic. Not only does God end up looking very small, but we do, too.

We are ready for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit only after fifty days of enjoying the wisdom of the risen Christ. It takes a while to move from “Jesus as mine” to “Jesus as everybody’s.”

Originally only Paul was strong enough to understand this, and his ministry to the Gentiles (most of us!) was scandalous to James and Peter. He had to argue with Peter about this, and God had to give Peter a vision to prove it to him.

Choosing, Changing

When God makes a choice, it’s definitive and irrevocable. God does not love us *if* we change, but *so* that we can change.

God has not stopped choosing Israel any more than God stops choosing us because we do not respond (see Romans 11). As Catholic tradition and recent popes have affirmed, the Jews are still the Chosen People.

God’s love is never determined by the worthiness of the one loved, which is difficult for us to comprehend—because that is the only way we know how to love. The biblical God seems both extremely patient and extremely humble. This is good news, for where would we be if God’s choice depended upon our response?

Since God’s choice is not determined by the worthiness of the chosen, the Bible speaks of God’s love as being faithful, forever, and like a rock! We never keep our side of the contract, yet God always

rises to the occasion and holds up God’s side. You could say that is the very definition of what it means to be God and what it means to be human in the Bible: Humanity always fails, God always saves.

Resting, Rejoicing

As humans, we cannot recognize another person’s inherent, God-given goodness until we have rested in that lovely place ourselves. God is inviting us first of all to rest and rejoice in what it means to be God’s beloved son or daughter. When we have learned to live for that chosenness, then can we communicate that same beloved status to anybody in any situation at any level of depth, joy, or freedom.

This is the only wedding feast there is. If we have been there, we can proclaim a true, new alternative to the drudgery and darkness of this world. This is healthy, happy religion, and it’s offered to us. +

PRAYER

Lord, you offered your life in humble service to humanity. Empower me with your Spirit, that I may be a humble servant of love and compassion to all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 16–21, 2018

Monday, Weekday:
Is 1:10–17 / Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday, Weekday:
Is 7:1–9 / Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday, Weekday:
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16 / Mt 11:25–27

Thursday, Weekday:
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19 / Mt 11:28–30

Friday, Weekday:
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8 / Mt 12:1–8

Saturday, Weekday:
Mi 2:1–5 / Mt 12:14–21