



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, August 12, 2018
Nineteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: I Sing The Mighty Power Of God BB 423

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Preparation Christ, Be Our Light BB 596

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 325
One Love Released BB 360

Recessional: Sing, O Sing BB 551

10:00 AM

Gathering: Sing A Joyful Song BB 538

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord.

Preparation Loving And Forgiving BB 665
Ubi Caritas BB 480

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion All My Days BB 585
Cry Of The Poor BB 620

Recessional: Sing Of The Lord's Goodness BB 561

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 itremlay@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!

August 5, 2018

**Offertory \$7,238.85
Property Management \$1,839.25**

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

August 12, 2018 NH Missionaries
August 15, 2018 Assumption of Mary
August 19, 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 ✠

BACK TO SCHOOL

St. Luke's Food Pantry would like to help parents who are struggling financially with **Back-To-School Supplies**. You can help by making a **monetary donation** (checks made out to "St. Luke Food Pantry" with "Back To School" on the memo line); **donating gift cards** (label the envelope "Food Pantry - Back to School"; or by **donating a "Back to School" backpack with school supplies included**. You can bring any of these items to church or drop them off at the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



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

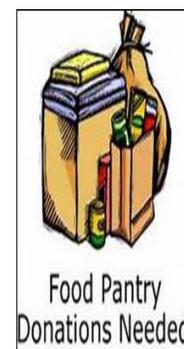
Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Joyce at jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Wednesday, August 15
**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, August 16

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

Saturday, August 18

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Saturday, August 11 ~ Vigil / 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:4-8; Eph 4:30—5:2; Jn 6:41-51

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

Sunday, August 12 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:4-8; Eph 4:30—5:2; Jn 6:41-51

8:00 AM George Moulaison (2nd Anniversary)
by his wife and family
Newton

10:00 AM Andrew Vlack by Joe and Marie Farren
Plaistow

Monday, August 13 ~ Pontian, Pope, & Hippolytus, Priest,
Martyrs

Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c; Mt 17:22-27

8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Tuesday, August 14 ~ Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

Ez 2:8—3:4; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 (Day)

Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56 (Vigil)

6:30 PM Phil Consentino (Birthday Remembrance)
by his family
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 15 ~ Assumption of Mary

Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

8:00 AM Howard Foster (3rd Anniversary)
by his wife Joan and family
Newton

Thursday, August 16 ~ Stephen of Hungary

Ez 12:1-12; Mt 18:21—19:1

8:00 AM William Wheeler (4th Anniversary)
by his Pastor
Newton

Friday, August 17 ~ Weekday

Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63; Mt 19:3-12
No Mass

Saturday, August 18 ~ Weekday

Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32; Mt 19:13-15 (Day)

Prv 9:1-6; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58 (Vigil)

4:00 PM William Wheeler by the Parish
Plaistow

Sunday, August 19 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 9:1-6; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

8:00 AM Joseph Thompson by Frances & Donald Harper
Newton

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

DAILY MASS CANCELLATIONS
There will be **NO** Daily Masses on
August 20, 21, 22 or 23, 2018.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukeh.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://stlukeh.org>



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, August 15 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.**

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 ✠

**ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS,
EUCHARISTIC 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.

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

On Wednesday, August 15 we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, a holy day of obligation. **Liturgies for the Assumption will be celebrated in Plaistow at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, August 14 and in Newton at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, August 15. Please note that there is NO 8:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow on Tuesday and NO 6:30 PM Liturgy in Plaistow on Wednesday.**



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 ✠

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER

August 17, 2018

Corpus Christi Parish, Portsmouth, NH

JESUS aCROSS the Border welcomes special guest, Bishop Libasci, to its August event at Corpus Christi Parish in Portsmouth NH! The evening will begin at 7:30 PM with Eucharistic Adoration, acoustic Praise & Worship, and Mass with Bishop Libasci. All will then walk down to Prescott Park and enjoy an evening of socializing and pizza! The event is geared towards young adults, 18-35 years of age, but is open to anyone who would like to find out more about the JESUS aCROSS the Border mission. Email Billy Beauchesne at JESUSACROSStheBorder@gmail.com for more information.

SEEKING GOD IN ALL THINGS

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer

September 21-23, 2018

We would be amazed at how many ways God is present to us every day! All too often, our full and busy lives make it easy to miss out on experiencing God's loving presence in everyday things. Our daily lives become very different when we are able to feel God present to us in all things. Seeking God in all things is a profound experience of love that not only changes us, it changes the way we see everything around us. This quiet and reflective weekend is an opportunity to experience different ways of opening our contemplative hearts so that we can encounter God's loving presence in all things. Come and awaken your contemplative spirit through Lectio Divina, centering prayer, quiet reflection, and song. **Registration deadline is September 7, 2018.** To register, or for more information, contact Sisters Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, pm at 603-878-2346 or olhope1@yahoo.com.



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:

Theme Basket Raffle:

Make a wrapped, ready-to-affle basket with a theme. Get creative!

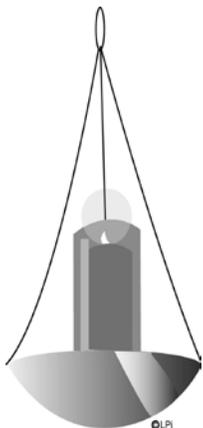
Here are some ideas: chocolate, golfers, indoor and outdoor gardening, fishermen, movie night, games, books, Christmas theme/decorations, girls, boys, music, Thanksgiving theme/decorations, babies, pets, faith formation/reflection, coffee, tea, knitting, crocheting, quilting, scrapbooking, children's creative arts, all kinds of cooking and food: grilling, baking, international!

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!

CAR FOR SALE

A parishioner has a dark purple (looks almost navy blue), two-door 1996 Saturn SC2 coupe for sale. The car has 33,000 miles on it (original mileage) and it has a 2018 NH inspection sticker. There are a couple of problems – the sunroof doesn't open and the headlights don't close. Other than that, the car is in good shape. Asking price is \$2,000. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **George Moulaison** by Linda Fitzgerald

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Paul O'Leary** by Colleen and Mark Hammond



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **George Moulaison** by his wife, Tess

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.

BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!!!!



Join us for six weeks of exploration of the Bible that equips you to apply the message of Scripture to your daily life.

Six Weeks with the Bible series, published by *Loyola Press*, is an ideal way to learn important background information on Scripture, experience praying God's Word, and discover the difference the Bible can make in your life today.

Our Fall Bible share groups will be exploring the theme "Relating to Others as Jesus Would" *Loyola Press* states: "We will read some excerpts from the Gospels in order to examine how Jesus related to the people in his life. As we proceed, we will explore connections between what we find in Scripture and our own life. The goal is to become more like Jesus."

If you are interested in joining a group either on Sunday mornings after the 10 a.m. Mass, beginning September 9, or on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 12, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 13; please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Tuesday, September 4. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or csmith@stluketheevangelist.net

Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

(There is an \$8 book fee)

Name _____

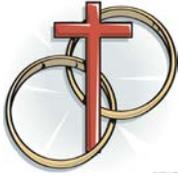
Address _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Relating to Others as Jesus Would (check one)

Sundays at 11 a.m. ____ Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ____ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. ____
Sept. 9 – Oct. 14 Sept. 12 – Oct. 17 Sept. 13 – Oct. 18

✠ 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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | August 12, 2018

Stop Murmuring and Go to God

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I have a clear memory of leaning over to the classmate in the next row and complaining about an assignment we had just been given. I wasn't the only one. Throughout the classroom, pairs of heads came together in a wave of rolling eyes and muttered remarks. I suppose we thought it went unnoticed. "Is there anything you would like to share with the rest of the class?" the teacher asked. "No, thank you," was the general response. We were a little embarrassed at having been found out.

That long-ago recollection surfaced as I read that the crowd "murmured" when Jesus said that he was the bread that came down from heaven. The word is also used of the Israelites who "murmured" about their hunger in the desert. Jesus calls them out by answering the question they thought he didn't hear. When he explains that he is greater than the manna that kept them alive in the desert, they can't believe their ears. They couldn't see that Jesus was far more than they understood him to be and they did not have faith in him because of that.

Has there ever been a time when you have murmured to yourself or someone else about God? Maybe God called you to ministry and you didn't believe him. Maybe he asked you to give up something and you complained like I did in that class of years past. Maybe you think God has been unfair to you. Save you breath; God hears you. Instead, go to him. Pour out your questions and fears and, with an open and willing heart, listen to the promise of life he alone can give you. +

Sunday Readings

1 Kings 19:4-8

[Elijah] prayed for death: "Enough, LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.

John 6:41-51

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever."

A Word From Pope Francis

In Jesus his Son, God has come down among us. He took flesh and showed his solidarity with humanity in all things but sin.... He saw and embraced all of creation. But he did more than just see; he touched people's lives, he spoke to them, helped them and showed kindness to those in need.

—World Day of Peace, January 1, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Rather than murmur, do I accept what God has in mind for me?
- Do I regularly pour out my questions and fears to God?



We're All on the Same Team

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

Being Catholic is a team effort. God's dreams for the world are too great for any of us to accomplish on our own. But we don't have to do it alone. We have the support of the saints.

When we use the title *saint* we usually think of men and women of exceptional holiness. But being a saint isn't the exception; it's the rule. We are *all* called to be saints. As members of Christ's body we are in communion with the other members of that body, living and dead; we participate in the communion of saints. Sainthood (holiness) is the essential element of Catholic identity!

The saints, living and dead, offer us encouragement and support. We celebrate each Eucharist in union with the local Church—the living saints—and in union with Mary, Joseph her husband, Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, and John. We celebrate in the fellowship of Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, and Cecelia “on whose constant intercession we rely for help.” Saints of the present and past surround us. They intercede for us, praying to God on our behalf.

God's message of “I love you” has been heard in every age and country. Throughout the liturgical year we celebrate the memory of saints from

every continent and era to show how God has been at work in human lives. This great diversity reminds us that while Jesus' invitation to “follow me” remains constant, each of us must work out the details of how the Holy Spirit is active in the circumstances of our particular situations.

God's Instruments

When we celebrate the feasts of the saints, we are often amazed by their extraordinary achievements and sacrifices. But in recalling their memory we don't celebrate what *they* accomplished. Rather we rejoice at the wonderful things *God* accomplished through them. Our attention and prayers are always directed to God. It is God's strengths and gifts that we see reflected in the lives of these holy people.

We learn this Catholic focus on God from the greatest example of God's holiness shining forth in humanity: Mary. Jesus' mother proclaims, “My soul magnifies *the Lord*, and my spirit rejoices *in God*.” If anyone could brag about having done wonderful things for God, it would be Mary. But she has us look to the Mighty One who “has done great things for me.”

Mary, Our Model

Like Mary, we bear Christ in our bodies through baptism and Eucharist. We bring forth Christ to the world by our word and example. Mary's virginity points us to single-minded devotion to the will of God. Her sinlessness is a model for the Church, a reminder that we are to be God's holy people, God's saints. Mary's assumption into heaven foretells our own destiny as Church. Where she is, we one day hope to be.

In Mary we see a perfect example of how God acts. It is as though God depends on our cooperation for the salvation of the world. God waited for Mary's consent, Mary's “let it be with me according to your word,” to take flesh and come among us. Mary is the model of all holiness, for the essence of holiness is saying yes to God's will as we hear and understand it.

The communion of saints is integral to our Catholic identity. Being Catholic is a team effort. With Mary and all the saints on our team, we can be certain that God's dreams for the world will ultimately be accomplished. +



Lord, you give us your Spirit to renew the earth. Instill in my heart the spirit of love, compassion, forgiveness, and peace, that I may be a source of healing.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 13–18, 2018

Monday, Weekday:
Ez 1:2–5, 24–28c / Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday, St. Maximilian Kolbe:
Ez 2:8–3:4 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56

Thursday, Weekday:
Ez 12:1–12 / Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday, Weekday: Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63
or Ez 16:59–63 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Weekday:
Ez 18:1–10, 13b, 30–32 / Mt 19:13–15