



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, September 9, 2018
Twenty-Third Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 304

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;
slow to anger, rich in kindness; loving
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation Psalm 42 – As The Deer Longs BB 489

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion I Received The Living God BB 327
Bread Of Life BB 370

Recessional: O God, Our Help In Ages Past BB 444

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 415

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

*Lord, you have the words of
everlasting life.*

Preparation Psalm 42 – As The Deer Longs BB 489
Prayer Of St. Francis BB 523

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion On Eagle's Wings BB 437
Christ, Be Our Light BB 354

Recessional: Though The Mountains May Fall BB 429

✠ 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
SEPTEMBER 2, 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

September 9, 2018 Catholic University/USCCB
September 16, 2018 Fuel
September 23, 2018 Priest Retirement Fund

 *In Loving Memory*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Deanna Quaglietta

Charles Pothier

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	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

BAKE SALE & WALK FOR THE POOR

The St. Vincent de Paul Society's Annual Appeal & Bake Sale will be held on the weekend of **September 22-23, 2018** and their "Walk For The Poor" will be held on **Saturday, September 29, 2018**.

Would you like to participate in this walk? The more the merrier! Please email Susan Mokray at suziqmo@aol.com or Margaret Madeiros at Madeiros7@msn.com for details.

You can support the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk For The Poor by donating to this event online at www.fopwalk.org/event/2161 and simply click on "Donate To This Event" or "Donate To Walker".

Donations are tax deductible and donor receipts are available. Please help us assist the poor in our community and "Walk A Mile In Our Shoes."

Bakers are needed for the Bake Sale. We are seeking talented bakers to drop off their baked goods at any of the Masses you attend and then turn around and purchase some of our other fine pastries!



**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.

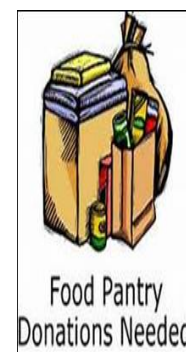
CATECHISTS NEEDED

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.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

**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 / FALL...

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Sunday, September 9

11:00 AM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Catechist Meeting *Plaistow*

Tuesday, September 11

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 12

**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

7:00 PM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 13

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
1:30 PM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, September 15

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 16

11:00 AM Religious Ed Registration Sunday *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Relating to Others as Jesus Would *Plaistow*

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Saturday, September 8 ~ Vigil / 23rd Sunday in Ord. Time

Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

4:00 PM Martin Feuer by Raymond & Beverley Viglione
Plaistow

Sunday, September 9 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

8:00 AM Robert Giallongo by St. Vincent de Paul Society
Newton

10:00 AM Giovanni Polichetti by his wife and children
Plaistow

Monday, September 10 ~ Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11

8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Tuesday, September 11 ~ Weekday

1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19

8:00 AM Intentions of Paul Fournier by Dan & Jean Lloyd
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 12 ~ Most Holy Name of Mary

1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26

6:30 PM Frank Tatarka by his wife, Sonia
Plaistow

Thursday, September 13 ~ John Chrysostom, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38

8:00 AM Richard Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan
Newton

Friday, September 14 ~ Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

No Mass

Saturday, September 15 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Cor 10:14-22; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35 (Day)

Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, September 16 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

8:00 AM Ron Metcalf by St. Vincent de Paul Society
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
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. 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, September 19 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

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 ✠



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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary of **5, 25, or 50 years** to attend the **Fall Wedding Anniversary Mass**. Couples are encouraged to invite select family members to share in the joyous occasion. This celebration will be held on **Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 2:00 PM at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester**. To register, please contact your parish office **by September 18, 2018**. The parish office will submit all necessary information. All registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. **Couples celebrating other significant anniversaries will be asked to register next year for a Spring Celebration.**

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.

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.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, September 2, 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.

✠ 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 ✠

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS

The Catholic Charities' Bereavement Support Group will meet at St. Anne Church, 26 Emerson Road, Hampstead, NH on every other Thursday from 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

Meeting dates are:

September 6
September 20
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
November 29
December 13

For more information, contact Judy Nelson at jnelson@nh-cc.org.

BOWLING FOR BLESSING
Saturday, September 15, 2018
12:00 to 2:00 PM

Bowling for Blessing is a wonderful opportunity for friends and family to have fun and to help others. This event will take place at the **Bowl-O-Rama Family Fun Center**, 599 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH. Tickets are \$10.00 and will allow you two hours of unlimited bowling, while 50% of the money taken in will help others in your community through Operation Blessing.

DR. SCOTT HAHN

St. Mary's Parish, Lynn, MA

Saturday, September 15, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

To get tickets, or for more information, call 978-598-4907 or email Chris Carmody at ccarmody@lynncatholic.org.

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER

St. Joseph the Worker Shrine
37 Lee Street, Lowell, MA

Friday, September 21, 2018

7:30 PM – Adoration, Praise & Worship, Confession
9:00 PM – Young Adult Mass

Fall Forum, Pizza Social, & Fellowship to Follow!

WOMEN OF GRACE

Become the woman of grace God created you to be!

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Hampton, NH presents "Full Of Grace: Women And The Abundant Life." This ten-week course begins on **September 26** and is a dynamic program for Catholic women, encouraging study participants to come to a fuller understanding of their dignity and vocation as daughters of God. Cost is \$45 for materials. For more information, call Kathy Allen at 603-957-0048.



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

**CASH RAFFLE TICKETS ARE HERE
GET YOURS TODAY!**

The Cash Raffle needs lots and lots and lots of tickets sold to parishioners and – especially – to people outside the parish. If we sell all of our tickets, we'll raise **\$4,500** for St. Luke's!!!

You can be a big help ...

*** When asked to take tickets for others to buy or sell, please say yes.

*** Please buy at least one book of tickets yourself.

If you have questions, or would like to help make our Christmas Craft Fair even more successful, please send a message to stlukenhfair@gmail.com or leave a message for Julie Lamere at the Parish Office: 603-382-8324. Thank you!

TOUCH A TRUCK

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to its 4th Annual Touch-A-Truck on **Saturday, September 22 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM!** This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Vehicles, food, music, games, face painting, glitter tattoos, raffles and more!

RELAX AND KNIT

Our Lady of Hope – House of Prayer

September 28-20, 2018

Registration Deadline: September 14, 2018

October 26-28, 2018

Registration Deadline: October 12, 2018

To register, or for more information, contact Sisters Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, p.m. at olhope1@yahoo.com or go to <http://www.ourladyhope.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.amazonsmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

BACK TO BASICS: HUMILITY AND COMPASSION



The news about the institutional dimension of the Catholic Church has been persistent and devastating. Crimes, cover-ups, accusations, bizarre and power-hungry behavior on the part of so many in positions of authority: it's all been too much for so many. For people around the world, the Church has lost all credibility and moral authority. Why should anyone care what we have to say about anything? As Paulist Father Frank DeSiano observed in a recent column, we still have a mission "to evangelize in difficult times." But who will listen?

People are done with words. Words have too often proven to be false. Words have too often proven to be hollow. Words have too often proven to be shadowy caverns of deceit.

It's past time for action. Our collective examination of conscience must include thorough investigation, honest analysis, and concrete plans of action and reform. Pope Francis reminds us that all of our institutions, from parishes through the papacy, need to be reformed constantly so that our mission of spreading the "Joy of the Gospel" may be effective in our own day. Never has this call for radical reform been more obvious. Where to start?

Certainly, all of this must be done, and done immediately. We can't go on like this.

We must get back to basics.

The reforms we need right now start from that perspective of humility, compassion, and service, and the Church must be one which is in a constant state of reform, renewal and conversion. The world's bishops assembled at the Second Vatican Council taught:

“Christ summons the Church to continual reformation as she sojourns here on earth. The Church is always in need of this, in so far as she is an institution of human beings here on earth. Thus if, in various times and circumstances, there have been deficiencies in moral conduct or in church discipline, or even in the way that church teaching has been formulated — to be carefully distinguished from the deposit of faith itself — these can and should be set right at the opportune moment.” Vatican II, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, #6

This is a “crisis” point for our Church: a turning point. Who are we as the People of God, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit? The choices we make now are as critical as those made by those holy women and men before us who faced their own challenges to reform the Church to respond the needs of their time.

What are you and I prepared to do about all of this? This isn't about bishops, cardinals or even the Pope: we the Church are a communion of disciples, and our response must involve all of us.

© Deacon William T. Ditewig, Ph.D. is a Permanent Deacon of the Archdiocese of Washington. A retired Naval Officer, he has served as Executive Director of the Secretariat for the Diaconate and the Interim Executive Director of the Secretariat for Evangelization for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He has also served as Professor of Theology and Director of the Graduate Program in Theology at Saint Leo University in Florida and Director of Faith Formation, Diaconate and Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of Monterey, while also teaching as Executive Professor of Theology at Santa Clara University in California. In January 2017, he returned to Florida, where focused on writing, traveling to various places to speak on the diaconate, on the Church and sacraments, and teaching Theology at a variety of colleges and universities. His blog is <https://billditewig.blog> Deacons today: servants in a servant church.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time | September 9, 2018

Opening Our Eyes and Ears to God

By Mary Katharine Deeley

It seems odd that Jesus would tell someone he just cured to keep silent about the whole incident. If I had experienced a miraculous cure, I think my first impulse would be to tell everyone about it and how it came to be. It's hard to keep that kind of good news to oneself. But Jesus' reasons for asking this went beyond mere modesty. He did not want people to follow him simply because of what he did. There were prophets and preachers at that time who called attention to God and appeared to cure those who were ill.

They cast out demons and preached their understanding of the truth. But Jesus wasn't like any other person. He wanted people to look within themselves and believe in him because of who he was: Emmanuel, God with us.

If we believe in Jesus only because we have seen a miracle, then our faith is not rooted in a deep conviction of heart and mind. The first time something bad happens, our faith will waver. If we believe only because someone else told us to, then when that person exits our lives, our faith may stop. But if we have had a personal encounter with Christ mediated through sacraments, in prayer, or through another person and have come to believe in Christ as the Son of God, then our faith will grow. It will see us through rocky times and brighten the rest of our days. We will be like someone whose eyes and ears have been opened, because we will see Christ present in the world and hear his voice calling to us to come and follow him. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Then the eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened.

James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 7:31-37

He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it.

If we believe in Jesus only because we have seen a miracle, then our faith may waver.

A Word From Pope Francis

The proclamation of the Gospel is destined for the poor first of all, for all those who all too often lack what they need in order to live a dignified life. To them first are proclaimed the glad tidings that God loves them with a preferential love... Go to the poor first of all.

—Diocese of Rome ecclesial convention,
June 17, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Is my faith in Jesus rooted in a deep, personal conviction?
- Do I regularly pray and participate in the sacraments to strengthen that conviction?



Praying in Good Faith

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

Saint Monica, the mother of the great St. Augustine of Hippo, was a prayerful woman. She truly believed that what she asked of the Lord would be granted. In his *Confessions*, Augustine writes how he deceived his mother in leaving Africa to sail for Italy. His mother prayed tearfully to God that Augustine not be allowed to sail, yet he made the voyage anyway.

Here is a disturbing paradox. Does intercessory prayer work? We ask for healing of cancer, and a friend dies. We pray for peace, and wars continue. We implore our Lord for family unity, and alienation divides parents and children.

Are our prayers effective? What should we expect as we approach our providential Father in heaven?

Mary, the mother of Jesus, once again points the way. Her faith was deep and firm. Her refrain was: "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Yes, ask that Grandma's cancer be arrested, if it is your will, Lord. Yes, grace us with peace and family unity, but in your time, Lord. A radical trust and faith should underlie every petition.

Let us not limit our prayer life to asking the Lord to meet our needs. As people of faith we should praise God for God's majesty and glory; we should thank God for all the gifts in our lives;

we should appeal to God for forgiveness. We should come to God aware of our own sinfulness and our need for mercy. In the end, it is God's will that should be the basis of all prayer.

God's Will, Not Ours

Jesus said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike" (Luke 10:21). This is the same Jesus who, in the Garden of Gethsemane, prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42). The same dynamic that characterizes Mary's submission to God's will is present in her Son. God's will, not our desires, reigns supreme.

Surely when St. Monica realized that her prayer requesting that Augustine remain with her was not granted, she became discouraged. She possibly even developed doubts in a God who proclaims through Jesus that if we ask, we will receive; if we knock, the door will open; if we seek, we will find.

Again, what is needed is a radical trust that divine providence is at work and that, as Julian of Norwich says, "All shall be well."

Trusting in God

Every Sunday the community gathers in worship. We praise God, ask forgiveness, and petition the Lord regarding our needs and the needs of our world. In the end we know that we are gifted with God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus. We are also given the Holy Spirit who is the principal agent of our prayer and ministry. It is the Spirit who empowers us to rejoice when our prayers are "answered" as we desire. It is the same Spirit who enables us to trust that God's will is being worked out even when Grandma is not healed, peace remains elusive, and family unity is still lacking.

William E. Gladstone offers this prayer: "Pardon, O gracious Lord and Father, whatsoever is amiss in this my prayer, and let thy will be done, for my will is blind and erring." Gladstone knew that God could do so much more than we could ask for or imagine. This humble attitude is the key to all "effective" prayer. +

Lord, I am grateful for your faithfulness. Teach me to bring the comfort of your loving presence to those who are afraid.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 10-15

Monday, Weekday: 1 Cor 5:1-8 / Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday, Weekday: 1 Cor 6:1-11 / Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday, Weekday: 1 Cor 7:25-31 / Lk 6:20-26

Thursday, St. John Chrysostom:
1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 / Lk 6:27-38

Friday, Exaltation of the Holy Cross:
Nm 21:4b-9 / Phil 2:6-11 /
Jn 3:13-17

Saturday, Our Lady of Sorrows:
1 Cor 10:14-22 / Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35