



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Twenty-Fourth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table BB 311

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Christians, Let Us Love One Another
BB 476

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Remember Your Love BB 662
Ubi Caritas BB 480

Recessional: The Spirit Sends Us Forth BB 378

10:00 AM

Gathering: Glory And Praise To Our God BB 546

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,
of whom should I be afraid; of whom
should I be afraid.*

Preparation Servant Song BB 377
This Alone BB 404

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Behold The Lamb BB 339
One Bread, One Body BB 340

Recessional: Lift High The Cross BB 713

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.amazon.com. Be sure to choose: St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

✠ 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!

September 2, 2018

Offertory	\$7,108.67
Property Management	\$1,590.13

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 16, 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 ✠

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

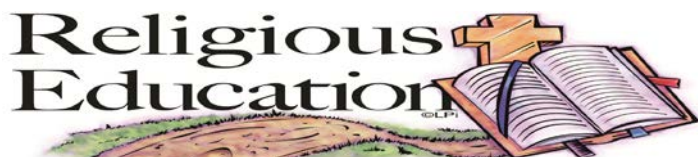
Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow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

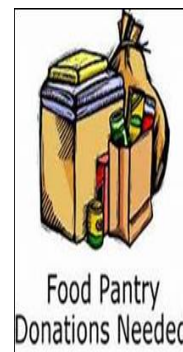
CATECHISTS NEEDED

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 FALL...

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, September 16
11:00 AM Religious Ed Registration Sunday *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 19
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

7:00 PM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 20

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
1:30 PM Relating To Others As Jesus Would *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, September 22
ST. VINCENT de PAUL APPEAL
AND BAKE SALE

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 23
ST. VINCENT de PAUL APPEAL
AND BAKE SALE

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Relating to Others as Jesus Would *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 15 ~ Vigil / 24th Sunday in Ord. Time
Is 50:5-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

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

**Monday, September 17 ~ Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church**

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Lk 7:1-10
No Mass

Tuesday, September 18 ~ Weekday
1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Lk 7:11-17
No Mass

Wednesday, September 19 ~ Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 7:31-35
No Mass

**Thursday, September 20 ~ Andrew Kim Tæ-gŏn, Priest,
and Paul Chông Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs**
1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50
No Mass

Friday, September 21 ~ Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13
No Mass

Saturday, September 22 ~ Weekday
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15 (Day)
Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Frank Szczapa (2nd Anniversary)
 by his family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 23 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37

8:00 AM Phillip Howard (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Glenn Hughes
Newton

10:00 AM Msgr. Eugene Murphy
 by Ray and Florence Cooper
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 ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Donald Foyne
by his wife and family

The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
**Francine Bettencourt
and Jeannette Halko**
by Janice Bettencourt

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, October 14, 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.

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.**

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 ✠

BLUE MASS

The Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Bishop of Manchester, cordially invites you and your family to a BLUE MASS on **Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 10:30 AM** at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Manchester, NH. This Mass is celebrated for members of law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders and their families and communities. All are invited to come and pray for and with the members of law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders – that God will bless them in their work and bless their families and loved ones. A breakfast will follow in the Cathedral Church Hall. **Please RSVP by September 24.** To reserve tickets for the breakfast, please visit www.2018bluemass.eventbrite.com.

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow him. Men in our Diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, are invited to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner. These evenings will take place for different age groups on Fridays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Joseph House in Manchester. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at vinson@rcbm.org or call 663-0153 if you would like to attend:

October 5 ~ High School, Ages 14-18
October 19 ~ Young Men, Ages 19-24
November 2 ~ Older Men, Ages 25+

February 8 ~ High School, Ages 14-18
February 15 ~ Young Men, Ages 19-24
February 22 ~ Older Men, Ages 25+

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

St. Michael Parish in Exeter, NH invites you to hear Trent Horn speak on "Refuting Relativism," "Hard Sayings," and "How To Talk About Tough Moral Issues." This one-day conference will take place on **Saturday, October 13** at St. Michael Church in Exeter, NH from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A light breakfast and lunch is included. Cost is \$35 per person. To register, go to www.stmichaelparish.org. For more information, contact Deacon Eric Lambert at deacon@stmichael.org.

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER

**The Catholic Conference On
Contemporary Worship**

**St. Mary Of The Assumption Church
Dedham, MA**

Saturday, October 20, 2018

**To register, or for more information, go to
www.ccworshipconference.com**



**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!

LOSS AND LIVING

Our Lady of Hope – House of Prayer

October 12-14, 2018

Registration Deadline: September 28, 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>.

PROJECT RACHEL

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopeafterabortion.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Put Christ's love into your relationship by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is **December 7-9, 2018** in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 1-800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.

Restore • Renew • Proclaim

the Hope that is Christ



The Diocese of Manchester is in the process of continuing to strengthen and renew faith formation in our parish, school and home school communities. Through this process we are being called anew to “Restore, Renew and Proclaim the Hope that is Christ.”

The goal is to make lifelong faith formation a priority and a reality throughout the diocese. This requires a few things:

- Making adult faith formation a priority in our parishes, which includes formation of catechists, parents and the entire adult community.
- Strengthening our youth ministry programs to include all teens of high school age.
- Reimagining our sacrament preparation processes to include a return to celebrating the sacraments of initiation in their **restored order**: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.

What is Lifelong Faith Formation?

Lifelong faith formation is a process of growing in the faith that begins with baptism. Immersed in the life of the Trinity, we are adopted sons and daughters of God our Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. Like all human relationships, developing and deepening our relationship with the Trinity happens gradually and over time. Consequently, lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship and knowledge of God, Jesus and the Spirit; to enhance our understanding of Scripture, Tradition and doctrines of our faith; and to sustain us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

What does restored order of the Sacraments mean?

Restored order means returning the three sacraments of Christian initiation to the logical order in which they were designed to be celebrated: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Church, it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in this sequence.

Why is the Diocese of Manchester changing the age of Confirmation?

By placing Confirmation at this age, the Diocese of Manchester will be following the natural sequence of the sacraments of Christian initiation. In addition, by placing Confirmation **prior to the reception of First Eucharist** it makes it easier to view the Eucharist as the summit of Christian initiation.

How is the celebration of Confirmation going to change in the Diocese of Manchester?

By 2021, the standard age of Confirmation is going to be third grade, and Confirmation will be celebrated at the same liturgy as First Communion. As a result, the preparation and reception of the sacraments of initiation throughout the Diocese of Manchester will be Baptism in infancy, Confirmation and Eucharist in third grade. Although not a sacrament of initiation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received in the second grade.

What are the benefits of restored order?

First, it will highlight that the Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the culmination of Christian initiation. Secondly, with the reception of grace of the Holy Spirit at a younger age, it will give children greater courage and guidance in facing the increasing difficulties of living a Christian life. Finally, it will allow for more opportunities for parents to take greater responsibility in their role as the primary educators of their children.

THE SACRAMENT SCHEDULE FOR OUR PARISH FOR THE YEAR 2018/2019

Grade 2 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in January of 2019, and Confirmation and First Eucharist in the Spring of 2020.

Grades 6, 7, and 8 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2019. There will be meetings for Confirmation Parents and Students.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Our Parish program depends on volunteers who give of themselves and so witness by deeds of service to the Way of the Lord Jesus. Please consider assisting the Religious Education Program as a Catechist, Aide, Hall Monitor or Substitute:

CATECHIST (Pre-K – 8; Confirmation)

Qualifications: A love for and practice of the Catholic Faith, and a desire to share the faith with our young people; patience and understanding; willingness to grow in faith and knowledge.

Responsibilities: Pray for the children, their families, and each other; arrive several minutes before Mass; prepare and lead lessons according to the Parish Religious Education mission, goals, and vision, using curriculum text and supplementary materials provided or approved by Coordinator; attend Catechist Meetings and resource sessions; keep attendance records, maintain appropriate environment in the classroom; notify Coordinator in advance (if possible) of need for a substitute; notify coordinator in advance of materials, copies, equipment, etc., needed; report extraordinary circumstances to Coordinator.

CLASSROOM AIDE; HALL MONITOR; SUBSTITUTE

Qualifications: Patience and understanding; willingness to grow in faith and knowledge.

Responsibilities: Pray for the children, families, and each other; monitor the students going to the rest rooms, support teachers and coordinator where help is needed, keep track of the time, and help lead the students up to Mass after a session is completed.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Manchester that ALL Catechists, Aides, Hall Monitors and Substitutes must complete an application form and undergo a criminal background check with the State of NH before they are allowed to participate in the Religious Education Program. Additionally, all Parish Volunteers must complete "Safe Haven" on line training. Please see the Religious Education Coordinator with any questions.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | September 16, 2018

Discovering Gifts From the Poor

By Mary Katharine Deeley

The undergraduate students with whom I work are part of a generation whose opportunities to serve others began in grade school. Regardless of religious affiliation, culture, or race, these students raised money, contributed to canned food drives, helped at food pantries, or built houses with their classmates or fellow club members. Now in college, they have hundreds of opportunities to help those less fortunate who are sponsored by this nonreligious institution alone, let alone the many more offered by their respective religious houses and communities.

For the most part, they serve willingly, even eagerly. But I find that few of them sit down to reflect on the good work they do. They rarely consider the call to solidarity with the poor or the command of Christ to love one another. They just have a felt sense that they should.

For Catholics, as for all Christians, this felt sense has its roots in the faith we proclaim. If we truly believe that Christ is the Son of God and our Savior, our faith compels us to do what he did and to love as he loved. And it is more than that. Many people do service work because it's the right thing to do or because they want to give back. Those are good reasons. But we are called to be in a relationship of love with those we serve. We are challenged to see not only how we might serve them but to see the gifts they bring to us and how they shape our lives. We are called to accept them as our brothers and sisters. +

A Word From Pope Francis

[Jesus said,] "If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." This is not an ornamental cross or an ideological cross, but it is the cross of life, the cross of one's duty, the cross of making sacrifices for others with love.

—Angelus, June 19, 2016



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 50:5–9a

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced.

James 2:14–18

What good is it, my brothers,
if someone says he has faith
but does not have works?
Can that faith save him?

Mark 8:27–35

[Jesus said,] "You are thinking
not as God does, but as human
beings do."

*If we truly believe
that Christ is our Savior,
then our faith compels us
to love as he loved.*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Do I seize opportunities to do service work?
- When serving the less fortunate, am I willing to accept them as my brothers and sisters?



The Wisdom of the Poor

By Donald Senior, CP

Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours (Luke 6:20).

Jesus' words have punch, and this beatitude from Luke's Gospel is a good example. Unlike the version in Matthew 5:3 ("Blessed are the poor in spirit..."), in Luke's Gospel Jesus speaks directly to the poor, adding no qualifying phrase like "in spirit." The people addressed here are the real poor, without resources, and truly needy.

Why would Jesus tell poor people they are blessed? The unemployed, those threatened with eviction from their home, those with no food for their hungry children all might be enraged to hear someone say, "Don't worry, you are blessed to be suffering." Advocates for the poor have long criticized those who pat poor people on the head and say, in effect, "Hang on. God loves you and your reward in heaven will be great."

Luke's Gospel makes clear that Jesus' response to the poor was more than empty words. He was a healer who waded into the sea of broken humanity to heal bodies and spirits. He threw his lot with the poor, eating with them and welcoming them (15:1-2).

Right after the beatitudes in Luke's Gospel come the "woes." The first of these pulls no punches for those who had resources, yet refused to share them: "Woe to you who are rich, for you have

received your consolation" (Luke 6:24). Jesus' words were so provocative that he earned the anger of his opponents and put his life at risk.

Ultimate Vindication

So Jesus' blessings to the poor were not idle words. He believed the poor are truly blessed because, despite everything, God cares for the poor and would ultimately vindicate their suffering. This is a fundamental conviction of the Bible. The God of Israel, the God of Jesus is on the side of the defenseless and those without resources. And while Jesus worked hard to alleviate suffering, he also firmly believed that those crushed by poverty would, in God's realm, be lifted up and filled with abundant life. For Jesus this was not "pie in the sky, by and by" but an expression of his trust that God was faithful and that life extended beyond the realm of suffering and death.

But there was another reason why Jesus blessed the poor. Those who are poor embody a truth that the rest of us often forget. The poor know what it means to be dependent on others. They know firsthand how fragile life can be, and have no illusion about being in control of their destiny. These realities apply not just to the poor but to everyone, yet having a

lot of resources can sometimes delude us into thinking we are the masters of our own destiny and do not need others.

Hard-won Wisdom

The Bible appreciates the hard-won wisdom of the poor and knows too well the illusions that can befall the rich. That is another reason why Jesus blesses the poor—paradoxically, their dependence and lack of autonomy reveal how everyone ultimately stands before God.

It's hard to read anything nowadays without thinking of the terrible crises gripping the world. How should we read Jesus' words about the poor now? Surely we are more aware of the growing chasm between the "haves" and "have-nots" that creates so much enmity and suffering.

Jesus' words and actions remind us that God cares for the poor and that as Christians we have an obligation to share our resources with those in need. All of us are "poor" before God and depend on God's abundant and gracious mercy for our lives. +

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for the gift of faith. Help me to practice what I believe in my heart.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 17-22

Monday, Weekday:

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 / Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a / Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday, Weekday:

1 Cor 12:31-13:13 / Lk 7:31-35

Thursday, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,

Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions:

1 Cor 15:1-11 / Lk 7:36-50

Friday, St. Matthew: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 / Mt 9:9-13

Saturday, Weekday:

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 / Lk 8:4-15

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 16, 2018

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