



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, December 2, 2018**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

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

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 25)  
*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.*

Preparation: Come Lord, Maranatha BB 64  
 Mass Parts: Mass of Christ the Savior  
 Communion: I Am The Living Bread BB 356  
 Our Blessing Cup BB 362

Recessional: Ready the Way BB 63

**10:00 AM**

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel  
 Dismissal: You Have Called Us BB 646  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 25)  
*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.*

Preparation: Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 46  
 Maranatha BB 67

Mass Parts: Mass of Joy and Peace  
 Communion: Christ Be Our Light BB 596  
 Jesus, Come To Us BB 394

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org](http://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.

**✠ 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!

**November 18, 2018**

**Offertory \$5,929.85**  
**Fuel \$1,955.60**

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR**  
**NOVEMBER 25, 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**

December 2, 2018 Property Management  
 December 8, 2018 Immaculate Conception

**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 ✠

# PAINT THE TOWN!

## THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

### *Can you help?*

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to **Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.**



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

**December 8** is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Under this title, Mary is the patroness of the people of the United States. This fact always makes **December 8 a Holy Day of Obligation** for Catholics in the US. We will celebrate Liturgy on that Holy Day as follows:

**Friday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow**  
**Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton**

### **From the Pastor's Desk**



### HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

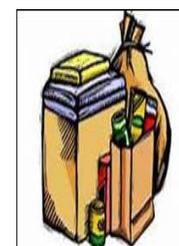
With the end of the Fall season and the coming of the Winter months, **Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow will be closed from December 1, 2018 until Spring 2019.** This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

### 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. Register today to start shopping and donating at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). Please choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

### **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 Donations Needed

### 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.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

#### Sunday, December 2

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	Advent Family Activity	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
<b>6:30 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

#### Monday, December 3

<b>7:00 PM</b>	Knights of Columbus	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, December 5 HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

#### Thursday, December 6

<b>8:30 AM</b>	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

#### Saturday, December 8

<b>3:00 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, December 9

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
<b>6:30 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

### 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society



#### Thank You!

Thank you, dear parishioners!!! Our Annual Bake Sale was "sweetly" successful and the Walk for the Poor went above and beyond our highest expectations with the funds raised. Your continued support, including your "Dropped Dollars," helps us with our mission to keep giving a "hand up" to the poor and forgotten in our community. Keep it up - we're counting on you! Thank you for stopping by our table at the Craft Fair for some yummy fudge and handmade items.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 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, December 1 ~ Vigil / First Sunday of Advent

*Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36*  
**4:00 PM** Mary and Roland Guilmette by their family  
*Plaistow*

#### Sunday, December 2 ~ First Sunday of Advent

*Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36*

**8:00 AM** Robert and Esther Cote  
by Christine and Wayne Cote  
*Newton*

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

#### Monday, December 3 ~ Francis Xavier, Priest

*Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11*

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

#### Tuesday, December 4 ~ John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

*Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24*

**8:00 AM** Intentions of Lori Reeves  
by Holy Angels Pre-School  
*Plaistow*

#### Wednesday, December 5 ~ Advent Weekday

*Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37*

**6:30 PM** Timothy J. Holland by his family  
*Plaistow*

#### Thursday, December 6 ~ Nicholas, Bishop

*Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27*

**8:00 AM** Everett Burke (Anniversary Remembrance)  
by his wife, Dolores Burke  
*Newton*

#### Friday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31 (Day)*

*Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 (Vigil)*

**6:30 PM** Joseph Fitzpatrick (26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
by his wife, Kay  
*Plaistow*

#### Saturday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 (Day)*

*Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6 (Vigil)*

**8:00 AM** William Nesti by his family  
*Newton*

**4:00 PM** Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse  
by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

#### Sunday, December 9 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

*Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6*

**8:00 AM** Ron Metcalf by his family  
*Newton*

**10:00 AM** Mary Sceggell (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) by Carole Lueders  
*Plaistow*

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

**THE GOAL IS LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION**

A new model of faith formation has been developing over the last 40 years. We have become accustomed to the classroom-instructional model. This model assumes that it is enough for young people to learn facts about the faith, once a week during their formative years. We all know that it takes much more than this for children to develop a strong foundation in their Catholic faith. The new model emphasizes that the community is at the heart of all faith formation. "Faith is communicated by the community of believers and the meaning of faith is developed by its members out of their history, by their interaction with each other, and in relation to the events that take place in their lives." (C. Ellis Nelson, *Where Faith Begins*, p.10). The life of our church is centered in the events that have the power to educate and transform individuals and the whole community. As Catholics, these include Church year feasts and seasons, sacraments and liturgy, justice and service, prayer and spiritual traditions, and community life. We know that these events are important to us, but we have to constantly learn how to participate in them so that we can understand them fully. Only then will they have the power to change us both personally and as a parish community. 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 lifespan 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. Catechesis is no longer for children only. If we are to be a church of missionary disciples, we all need to enter into the process of deepening our faith by continually learning and experiencing what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

**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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**RCIA**

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. 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](mailto: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, December 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. 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.

**ADORATION**

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. We have many people 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for prayer.**

✠ 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 ✠



**GIVING TREES**

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 8-9 (NEXT WEEKEND** - the Second Sunday of Advent).

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The Interfaith Choir presents its Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 8 at 7:00 PM** at the Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main Street, Hampstead, NH and on **Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 PM** at the Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, 171 Zion Hill Road, Salem, NH. Admission is free. Refreshments following each concert. A free will offering will be accepted.

**CHRISTMAS SHOW**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in Salem, NH invites you and your family to enjoy some Christmas Cheer with a show performed by its students:

**December 12, 2018  
10:00 AM and 6:00 PM**

**A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM**

**December 14, 2018 ~ 6:00 to 8:30 PM**

**St. Michael Church**

St. Michael Parish in Exeter, NH invites you this Advent Season to join them on a live nativity walk following in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on that holy night in Bethlehem. This is great for the whole family – a live presentation with real animals!

**VITA NOVA MEN'S RETREAT**

The annual Vita Nova Men's Retreat, led by Fr. Matthew Mason, will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH. It begins on **Friday, January 4 and concludes on Sunday, January 6, 2019** with Sunday lunch. For more information, visit [www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org).

**CLOTHING DRIVE**

**Kimberly's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Give Away!**

It's time again to clean your closets and start fresh!!! We all have clothes taking up space in our homes while there are people on the streets who are cold. Because of this, Kimberly Andrade is holding her 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Clothing/Coat/Canned Food Drive at **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish** in Plaistow, NH from **12:00 to 4:00 PM on January 5 and 6, 2019**. Items that will be collected include, but are not limited to: winter jackets, new and used clothing from any season and any decade, non-perishable food items, business clothing, blankets, sheets, hats, gloves, and unused socks and underwear (*preferably in their packages*). **All clothing must be cleaned prior to donation**. Clothing received will be donated to organizations such as Ruth's House, Emmaus House, and Catie's Closet. Non-perishable food items will be brought to St. Luke's Food Pantry. If there are any questions, or individuals interested in volunteering, please contact Kimberly at [kimberly-andrade@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly-andrade@comcast.net). Thank you so much for your generosity.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Faith Hume**

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays upon us, we have the following early bulletin deadlines:

**12:00 Noon on Tuesday, December 11 for the December 23 bulletin**

**12:00 Noon on Tuesday, December 18 for BOTH the December 30 and January 6 bulletins**

**CATECHUMEN**

Please continue to pray for our Catechumen, **Brent MacKenzie**.

**TAI CHI**

Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes will be taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups. Classes will be on **Mondays at 9:00 AM and Thursdays at 3:00 PM** in the Plaistow Church Hall. If there is enough interest, an evening class can be added on either a Monday or Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per class, and for seniors on a fixed income, the cost will be \$3.00 per class.

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## God's Justice

God of justice,  
you surprise us with your choices  
of the smallest nation to bless the world,  
a shepherd boy to be their king,  
and a baby born in a stable to be the  
King of Kings.

Give us a heart like yours  
that loves the least among us  
and values them as the greatest.  
Teach us your justice  
that will always forgive  
and bring forth life from death.  
We make our prayer through Jesus,  
the long-awaited Messiah,  
the fulfillment of the promise from  
all ages. Amen.

Sunday, December 2, 2018

A Season of Waiting



*Today's Readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36.* Many good things require waiting and planning: a wedding celebration, the birth or adoption of a baby, running a marathon. For such events, we enter into a mode in which much attention is focused on the preparation, even while the obligations of our daily life continue.

This kind of preparation is needed to have a good Advent. It may be hard to imagine even more preparation when already there are presents to be bought and wrapped, a tree and lights to be put up, cookies to be baked, and cards to be written.

Preparing for Advent is not hard work; it is a work of the heart. There are many ways to prepare our hearts—attending

daily Mass, reading and reflecting on each day's readings, praying Morning and Evening Prayer, praying the Rosary, and meditating in silence for fifteen minutes each day.

The work of the heart we choose keeps our eyes fixed on the miracle that in God's plan, he spoke his Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the Word expressed in flesh and blood, to allow us to draw closer to the God of infinite mystery. Jesus gives his very flesh and blood to us—once in history on Calvary, and for all time in the Eucharist.

While we await his return, we have good reason to “stand erect and raise [our] heads,” as today's Gospel counsels. We cannot become too fatigued or too anxious to remember that “[our] redemption is at hand.”



## Monday, December 3

### St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Prophets know that God's saving work is not just for the Jewish people. Isaiah calls his countrymen to "walk in the light of the Lord," anticipating the day when "all nations shall stream toward [Jerusalem]." Jesus meets a Roman centurion whose faith amazes him compared to many "children of the kingdom." As Advent begins, we might ask ourselves whether we, who have had the benefit of hearing the Word of God and receiving sacraments, have weak or strong faith. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11.*

## Tuesday, December 4

### Blessed Are We

Isaiah speaks of a time when the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord, and there will be peace among nations and even animals. These events await the fulfillment of God's plan when Jesus returns in glory. Yet Jesus knows how blessed his disciples are to see him in the flesh and hear his words. When we take the Risen Christ into our body in the Eucharist and listen to the Word, we are blessed with a foretaste of the time when we will know him fully. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24.*

## Wednesday, December 5

### Making God Known

For the third day, we hear Isaiah describe a mountain where all will come to know God as he provides rich, plentiful food and destroys death. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus feeds more than four thousand people and heals all who are sick. Surely, God is making himself known in their midst! When we prepare food for others or tend them when they are sick, are we aware that we are making God known? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37.*

## Thursday, December 6

### St. Nicholas

Advent is a good time to evaluate whether our religious practices are built on the rock-solid foundation of Jesus or a lack of trust. Isaiah says that peace will reign when we fully trust God. St. Nicholas, who remains a revered saint 1,800 years after he lived, is remembered for his generosity to the poor and the secrecy of his good deeds. He heard the words of Jesus and acted on them. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27.*

## Friday, December 7

### St. Ambrose

When Jesus heals two blind men, they tell everyone they know. In the fourth century, St. Ambrose was renowned for both his preaching and his arguments against heresy while bishop of Milan. People loved him best for his first act as bishop: selling all he had and giving to the poor. During this holy season we beg Christ to remove our blindness to our sins, open our lips to tell others about him, and open our hearts to care for the poor among us. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31.*

## Saturday, December 8

### Immaculate Conception

During Advent, while the whole Church waits with Mary, we ponder her special role in salvation history and celebrate that she, the perfect vessel who would give birth to the Savior, was conceived without sin. The angel who brought her the news called her "favored one." The Church echoed those words when, in 1854, it proclaimed as doctrine the Immaculate Conception. So widespread was this belief that eight years before the Vatican pronouncement, United States bishops had embraced Mary as America's patroness under the title of the Immaculate Conception. *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38.*





# **HAPPY ADVENT!**

Before all of the shopping, school events, family obligations, office parties, tree decorating, and general mayhem begins...

## **Join us for a Family Advent hour...**

**Everyone's welcome!** After 10 am Mass on **Sunday, December 2**. We will pray together, bless an Advent Wreath for you to take home, and work on Jesse Tree symbols for your family tree.

Donuts will be eaten & coffee and cocoa will be sipped.

# The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Pflaum  
**Gospel Weeklies**  
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

**First Sunday of Advent • December 2, 2018 • God Is Always Near**

**Sunday Readings:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

## Weekly Discussion Questions

### For the Parish Bulletin

**Life Question:** If you know Jesus will come again on Monday, how will you spend the weekend?

**Gospel Question:** What do you imagine salvation in Christ will be like for Earth and its people?

### LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

#### Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Some divine promises are easier to love than others. God promises a final reckoning. How prepared are we to stand up for our choices?

Visit [exploringthesundayreadings.com](http://exploringthesundayreadings.com)

#### Visions (Grades 7-8)

**Life Question:** What are your hopes for yourself, your family, our world?

**Gospel Question:** What are ways to prepare for Jesus' coming in glory?

#### Venture (Grades 4-6)

**Life Question:** What are you giving this Christmas?

**Gospel Question:** How can we be ready for Jesus to come?

#### Good News (Grades 2-3)

**Life Question:** What is a promise?

**Gospel Question:** What does Creation tell us about God?

#### Promise (Grades K-1)

**Life Question:** What do we do during Advent?

**Gospel Question:** In what special ways can you show love to others this Advent?

#### Seeds (Preschool)

**Life Question:** How do you get ready for Christmas in your family?

**Gospel Question:** How did Mary and Joseph get ready for Jesus' birth?

## Family Corner

### About the Gospel

The focus of Sunday's Gospel is the Second Coming of Jesus. It contains a strong message for us to not be distracted by problems or our own bad behaviors while we wait. Jesus wants us to be good to others and ourselves while we prepare for his return.

Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture.

### In Church

Take one of the gift requests from the parish Giving Tree to share the joy and love of Christmas with a child in need.

### Question of the Week

How can you serve and help build the Kingdom of God?

### Family Prayer

Lord, we want to become the people you created us to be. Give us the grace to work on those things we need to correct or improve.

## Rincón de la Familia

### Acerca del Evangelio

El enfoque del Evangelio del domingo es la segunda venida de Jesús. Contiene un fuerte mensaje para que no nos distraigamos con los problemas o nuestras malas conductas mientras esperamos. Jesús quiere que seamos buenos con los demás y con nosotros mismos mientras nos preparamos para su regreso.

Visita [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

### En la Iglesia

Tomen uno de los pedidos de regalos del Árbol de regalos de la parroquia para compartir el gozo y el amor de la Navidad con un niño necesitado.

### Pregunta de la semana

¿De qué manera puedes servir y ayudar a construir el Reino de Dios?

### Oración en familia

Señor, queremos convertirnos en las personas que Tú quieres que seamos. Danos la gracia de trabajar en esas cosas que necesitamos corregir o mejorar.

# Advent 2018

Daily Mass Scripture  
and Reflections for  
the Sacred Season

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p><b>2 Promise Fulfilled</b> A righteous Branch will spring up and rule his people. <i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i></p>	<p><b>3 A Reign of Peace</b> Nation will not lift up sword against nation. <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i></p>	<p><b>4 The Son Revealed</b> We are blessed to know and worship the Son. <i>Luke 10:21-24</i></p>	<p><b>5 Fully Satisfied</b> Our Lord feeds us with his Word, and we are satisfied. <i>Matthew 15:29-37</i></p>	<p><b>6 Built on Rock</b> We dwell on solid ground with Jesus as our sure foundation. <i>Matthew 7:21, 24-27</i></p>	<p><b>7 The Lord Is My Light</b> We will not fear; the Lord is our Light and Salvation. <i>Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14</i></p>	<p><b>8 Woman's Offspring</b> The woman's offspring will conquer the serpent. <i>Genesis 3:9-15, 20</i></p>
<p><b>9 Prepare the Way</b> John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord. <i>Luke 3:1-6</i></p>	<p><b>10 The Desert Blooms</b> Say to the fearful: "Be strong ... here is your God!" <i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i></p>	<p><b>11 Seek And Find</b> Our Good Shepherd searches high and low to rescue the lost. <i>Matthew 18:12-14</i></p>	<p><b>12 Gabriel Was Sent</b> Mary will conceive and bear a son, and call him Jesus. <i>Luke 1:26-38</i></p>	<p><b>13 Not Forsaken</b> The Lord will answer; he will not forsake his people. <i>Isaiah 41:13-20</i></p>	<p><b>14 Peace Like a River</b> Following God's commands brings peace like a river. <i>Isaiah 48:17-19</i></p>	<p><b>15 Elijah Has Come</b> John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah. <i>Matthew 17:9, 10-13</i></p>
<p><b>16 Live in Repentance</b> The One to come will baptize with the Spirit and fire. <i>Luke 3:10-18</i></p>	<p><b>17 The Lion of Judah</b> The scepter will not depart from the Lion of Judah. <i>Genesis 49:2, 8-10</i></p>	<p><b>18 Name Him Jesus</b> Mary's son will save his people from their sins. <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i></p>	<p><b>19 Do Not Be Afraid</b> John will go before the Lord to prepare his way. <i>Luke 1:5-25</i></p>	<p><b>20 The Lord's Sign</b> The young woman will bear a son, Emmanuel. <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i></p>	<p><b>21 Mother of My Lord</b> Blessed are you who believed the word of the Lord. <i>Luke 1:39-45</i></p>	<p><b>22 Dedicated to God</b> Hannah dedicated her son to the service of the Lord. <i>1 Sam. 1:24-28</i></p>
<p><b>23 Ruler in Israel</b> From little Bethlehem will come the Ruler of Israel. <i>Micah 5:1-4</i></p>	<p><b>24 Blessed Be the Lord</b> God has visited and brought redemption to his people. <i>Luke 1:67-79</i></p>	<p><b>25 Word Made Flesh</b> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us. <i>John 1:1-18</i></p>				

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
LITURGICAL CALENDAR      ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2018-19**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT –  
Christmas Liturgy schedule signups for all ministers**

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)  
SUNDAYS OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SEASON  
6:00 PM IN NEWTON  
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOLLOWS  
DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

<b>CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE</b> <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	<b>VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 4:00 PM      Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:30 PM      Liturgy (Newton)
<b>Tuesday, December 25</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 9:00 am      Liturgy (Newton)

**Sunday, December 2**      11:30 am Family Advent Activity (Plaistow)  
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**Friday, December 7**      Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*  
LITURGY: 6:30 PM – Vigil - Plaistow

**Saturday, December 8**      Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*  
LITURGY: 8:00 AM – Newton

**Sunday, December 9**      4:00 PM Reconciliation Service - Saint Michael, Exeter  
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

**Monday, December 10**      **LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE**

**Sunday, December 16**      6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**Saturday, December 22**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday (Plaistow)

**Sunday, December 23**      8:00 am Liturgy, 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday (Newton)  
10:00 am Liturgy, 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday (Plaistow)  
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**Wednesday, December 26**      NO 6:30 PM Liturgy at Plaistow

**Thursday, December 27**      NO 8:00 am Liturgy or Adoration at Newton

**Saturday, December 29**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

**Sunday, December 30**      8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton)  
10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)  
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer, Newton

**Monday, December 31**      No 8:00 am Liturgy at Newton  
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Plaistow)

**Tuesday, January 1**      9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Newton)

**Saturday, January 5**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

**Sunday, January 6**      8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton)  
10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)  
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

**Saturday, January 12**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
4:00 PM Vigil - BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

**Sunday, January 13**      8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton)  
10:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)  
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 24-27, 31 AND JAN. 1**

# Advent: Preparing for the Life to come!

Imagine what it must have been like to wait for death on the Titanic! It would literally have been like waiting on pins and needles, the pricks of death nipping ever more painfully at your heels, knowing that there was nothing you could do to stop death's bite. You would have been thrust back completely into dependence on God.

The season of Advent is for the Church a time much like the experience of those on the Titanic. It is a season of waiting and watching - but not for death, for LIFE! The Church prepares as it waits for the coming of the One who brings new life: Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

The Church prepares by watching in three directions...

The Church looks in the direction of those promises in Holy Scripture that the Messiah would come, that a virgin would conceive and bear a Son who is called Emmanuel, "God with us." These are the promises of Christmas. The Church also watches for those ways by which Christ's life is present now in our midst: the preaching of the Word of God and the offering of the Sacraments of forgiveness. Finally, the Church watches with patience and hope for Christ's final coming in judgment. Then His word of judgment will clothe with eternal life all who believe in Him.

Yet, as the Church lives in this world it is surrounded by a darkness resembling that of the Titanic's hull. Advent calls this darkness to mind and penetrates this darkness with promises about the Light of life. While the world is immersed in preparations for the secular celebration of Christmas, Advent allows the Church time to prepare for rejoicing in the full glow of Christ's light shining in the darkness.

The Church prepares for that Light by observing the disciplines of Advent.

These disciplines bring to the Church the nourishment that comes from the Lord's life. Advent is a season for immersion in the words of Scripture, especially those promises of Christ's birth, of His life-giving presence in His Church through the Holy Sacraments, and of eternal life at His final coming.

Advent is also a season of confession and repentance. It allows the Church to see its own sin-filled darkness, confess its sin, and receive the Lord's forgiveness. Advent is a season of fervent prayer, the Church repeating to the Lord His words that He will come again. The Church cries, *Maranatha!* Come, O Lord! Come quickly! (1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20)

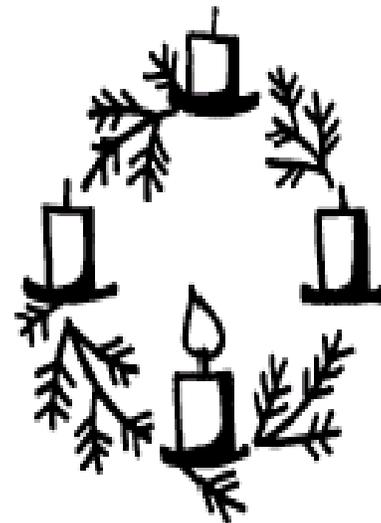
By practicing these disciplines in Advent, Christ leads His Church back to the relationship of absolute dependence He has established. So the Church waits in hope for the Lord's final appearance. On that day He, who became what we are to redeem us, will clothe us in the life of His righteousness.



**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Plaistow on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 PM, and in Newton on Sunday evenings following 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer.**

**T**he origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen, made them into circles (symbols of eternity), and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Farmers pulled wheels off their wagons in exchange for sleigh tracks, and often used their wagon wheels as frames for the wreaths, reminding themselves of the springtime to come.

Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.



Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal— one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25<sup>th</sup>. The rose candle is usually lit on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lit, a prayer may be said. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

#### **A RITE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT AT HOME**

*The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:*

*As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.*

Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil.* (Is. 9:1-2)

Then all pray: *O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light shines from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way, and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Then the candle is lit.*

#### **DAILY PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

First Week- *O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.*

Second Week - *O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.*

Third Week - *O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command, come and show us the way to salvation.*

Fourth Week - *O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation.*



**Besides sharing Christmas joy through the Giving Tree, our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry provides Christmas Dinners to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for the baskets typically runs to well over \$2000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.**

**If you would like to contribute towards the cost of CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“Christmas dinner baskets,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Office or Food Pantry and make a contribution in person.**

***Thank you for your support of the poor among us.***

# LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP?

## SAINT LUKE FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER

Food Pantry volunteers assist with preparing food to go out to the clients the Pantry serves. Volunteers also assist in stocking shelves, packing boxes and moving food and other material around the Pantry. Some volunteers also assist with client paperwork and Pantry documentation. The Pantry needs volunteers for the regular hours (Wednesday, 10 am – Noon; Thursday, 6-7 PM; Friday, 10 am – Noon). Volunteers are always welcome to arrive at the Pantry before the opening hours to assist. Food Pantry volunteers should be able to lift bags or groceries (up to 15 lbs.) and to negotiate both the stairs into the Pantry and the bulkhead stairs from the Pantry to the parking lot.

Contact Marie Farren at 819-4949.

The Pantry is looking for helpers of any age on the weekend of November 16-17 to prepare and distribute Thanksgiving dinners.

The Pantry also welcomes helpers of any age on the weekend of December 15-16 to help distribute Christmas baskets and gifts.

A great opportunity for families to do something good together!

## SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEER

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is a volunteer organization whose mission is to give members in our community who find themselves struggling a "hand up, not a hand out."

The Society meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church Hall in Plaistow. They host and participate in many fund raisers throughout the year. 100% of the funds donated through these fundraising efforts go directly towards helping the poor and underserved in our area. Once the need is made known to the Society a dedicated team of a man and woman plan a home visit, meet the person(s) requesting aid, prepare a report and ask the Society to determine if the request can be granted. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul works closely with the St. Luke Food Pantry and the Knights of Columbus in our Parish. Help Line: 382-8324 x 315. Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SVDPSL](http://www.facebook.com/SVDPSL).

Contact info: Trisha Mainella, [mpatrisia88@gmail.com](mailto:mpatrisia88@gmail.com).

# Retirement Fund for Religious

“The best thing I did in ministry was to teach children the Gospel through plays,” says Sister Clare Vandecoevering, 88. “Oh, they were just delighted!” A member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, she spent more than 50 years in the classroom, sharing her love of Jesus and bringing the Catholic faith to life.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Perhaps there was a Sister Clare in your life. Perhaps a special woman or man religious shared with you love, faith, and a belief in all that you could become. Maybe you knew more than one. Today those sisters, brothers, and religious order priests may be elderly, and their religious communities may struggle to meet retirement needs.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports necessities—such as medications and nursing care—and helps ensure the next generation of Sister Clares can continue in ministry. Please give generously.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

Almost 94 percent of donations directly aid senior religious.



Meet them at [retiredreligious.org/2018photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2018photos).

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

**Please check with your employer about matching gifts.**

**Amount:**  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for e-newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)diocese \_\_\_\_\_

**National Religious Retirement Office**

3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194  
Telephone (202) 541-3215  
Fax (202) 541-3053



Printed on recycled paper,  
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# Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Advent  
December 2, 2018

## Change for God's Creation

By Mary Katharine Deeley

We begin this Church year as we left the last one—with a description of the signs that will come before Christ appears. But where Mark warns of the coming judgment for the enemies of God, Luke, with great subtlety, shifts the focus so people will hear the hope of salvation. “Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand,” he calls out (Luke 21:28). At the end of the Church year, we meditate on Christ's coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the beginning, we remember the Incarnation: God's emptying himself to

become fully human and come into the world. Both actions are heralded by, and will mean great change for, us and for God's creation.

Change happens when God breaks into the world, regardless of the time. In account after account in the Bible, we watch as God visits people and changes their names (Abraham and Peter), their lives (Jeremiah, the apostles, the woman at the well), and heals their separation and brokenness (the blind man, the paralytic, and Lazarus). Also, sinners are punished (the rich man and Jezebel) and landscapes are altered (Isaiah's vision of valleys lifted up and mountains laid low). This saving action continues throughout history, especially within the Church and among the saints.

Advent is a time to remember that Christ came to change the world and each of us. Have we allowed ourselves to be changed? Are we willing to be shaped by the hand of God, called by a different name, and given a place in Christ's mission? Let's hope so because, ready or not, here he comes. +

*Change happens when  
God breaks into the world,  
regardless of the time.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets and in our houses....These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us.

—Angelus, December 11, 2016



## Sunday Readings

### Jeremiah 33:14–16

I will make a just shoot spring up for David; he shall do what is right and just in the land.

### 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.

### Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

[Jesus said,] “They will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Am I open to accepting the changes that God wants to bring to my life?
- How has the coming of Christ changed the world?

# Connecting the Dots

By Richard Rohr, OFM

In this space we often discuss the great themes of Scripture. Though the point may seem obvious, this is a good time to emphasize that the Bible is more than a series of unrelated inspired stories or a collection of helpful lessons to live by. Biblical revelation invites us into an utterly new experience, and the wonderful thing is that human consciousness is ready for it—perhaps more than ever.

Remember the connect-the-dots activities found in the coloring books of our youth? When we had finished drawing in the lines and making all the connections, we suddenly saw something we hadn't seen before. So it is with the Bible: Its themes have coherence about them, offering something good and new. That is what the word of God is meant to be.

In many ways this gift is more important than ever. We live at a time when voices are telling us that nothing has meaning, there are no big patterns. We cannot thrive in such a universe. As we know, the soul needs meaning like the body needs food. The soul must have meaning to flourish and live with safety. What true biblical revelation gives us is coherence in the face of seeming incoherence.



As children, most of us learned the story about Adam and Eve. The Garden is the symbol of unitive consciousness where we cannot separate from God. Whatever our journeys outward from there, they eventually lead us back to the center to find who we really are, to find ourselves in God.

## God at the Center

We come to see this as the end point of the Bible, where at last in this marvelous doctrine that we call the Trinity we have this mystery of mutual indwelling: God in us and we in God; God in human history and history finding itself in God. There is no separation anymore.

Saint Paul addresses this idea of mutual indwelling in Colossians 3:4: “When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.” In his Letter to the Galatians (2:19–20), Paul writes: “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God.”

What God is doing throughout the Bible is creating people who are capable of encounter, of being present. The whole movement of the Bible leads us toward ever greater incarnation, ever deeper indwelling. The last book of the Bible ends in the holy city with the river of

life flowing through it (Revelation 21). Here we have a final image of mutual indwelling: We live in God and God lives in us. And we dare to believe that it could be true.

## The Ultimate Question

Recall an early scene from John's Gospel (1:38–39) that sums up much of the good news. Jesus encounters two of his disciples walking along the lake and asks them what they want. I believe that is what God is asking us: What do we really want? They replied with another question, asking Jesus where he lived.

This is the ultimate spiritual question: Where do you live? Who are you? The answer, of course, is that we are sons and daughters of God. Jesus invited his disciples to follow him, and they stayed with him for the rest of that day. This is Jesus' invitation and his gift. This is what the Bible is finally calling us to. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, help me to slow down and become more aware of my rushing aimlessly from place to place. Quiet my mind and steady my heart that I may live in your presence throughout the day.*

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 3–8

**Monday**, St. Francis Xavier:  
Is 2:1–5 / Mt 8:5–11

**Tuesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 11:1–10 / Lk 10:21–24

**Wednesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 25:6–10a / Mt 15:29–37

**Thursday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 26:1–6 / Mt 7:21, 24–27

**Friday**, St. Ambrose: Is 29:17–24 / Mt 9:27–31

**Saturday**, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9–15, 20 / Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 / Lk 1:26–38

# Saint Luke the Evangelist

## Parish Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2018

December 2018

Dear Members of the Saint Luke Parish Community:

With the assistance of our Finance Council and the Parish staff, I present to you the 2018 Fiscal Year Financial Report.

Overall, the financial news is good for Saint Luke Parish. At the end of the fiscal year, the Parish showed a \$47,681.00 surplus, but this surplus was a bit of an accounting phantom. This “surplus” was not a surplus at all, because we owed the Diocese much of the balance of the 2018 FY assessments that needed to be paid by June 30, 2018. We were able to pay off these assessments using monies from our operating and property management accounts, the “surplus” identified in the report. As was the case from last fiscal year, this payoff to be a major achievement for the Parish, since we had previously relied on loans or hardship grants from the Diocese. Our community continues to be debt free and I am happy to be able to report that our weekly offertory continues to grow in terms of amount and numbers of donors.

I am also happy to note our progress in our Capital Campaign. While not part of the Parish budget *per se*, the Campaign has been wonderfully successful. We have completed the Plaistow roof project and are now engaged in estimates for needed painting and electrical upgrades on the Newton campus.

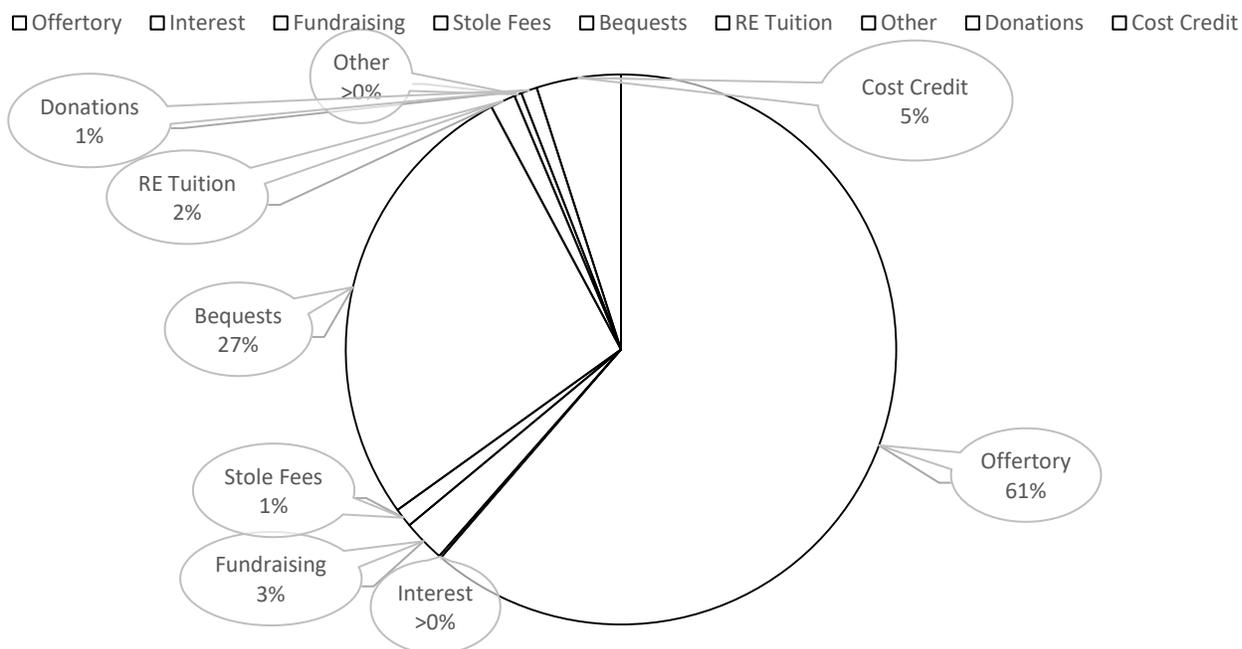
The Parish continues to monitor all expenses and to use our resources wisely. I have been encouraged by your generous response to the mission of the Parish. In presenting this report to you, I request that you continue to seriously and prayerfully evaluate your support of the Parish. You as a Parishioner are responsible for the kind of Parish you want to have; I respectfully ask that you make decisions that you deem appropriate for your own contributions of time, talent and treasure.

I am deeply grateful for your continued support and stewardship on behalf of our community.

<b>Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income</b>		
<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>5% Commitment annually/ weekly</b>	<b>3% Commitment annually/ weekly</b>
\$100,000	\$5,000/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

<b>Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase</b>			
<b>Your Current Offertory Contribution</b>	<b>25% Increase</b>	<b>30% Increase</b>	<b>40% Increase</b>
\$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

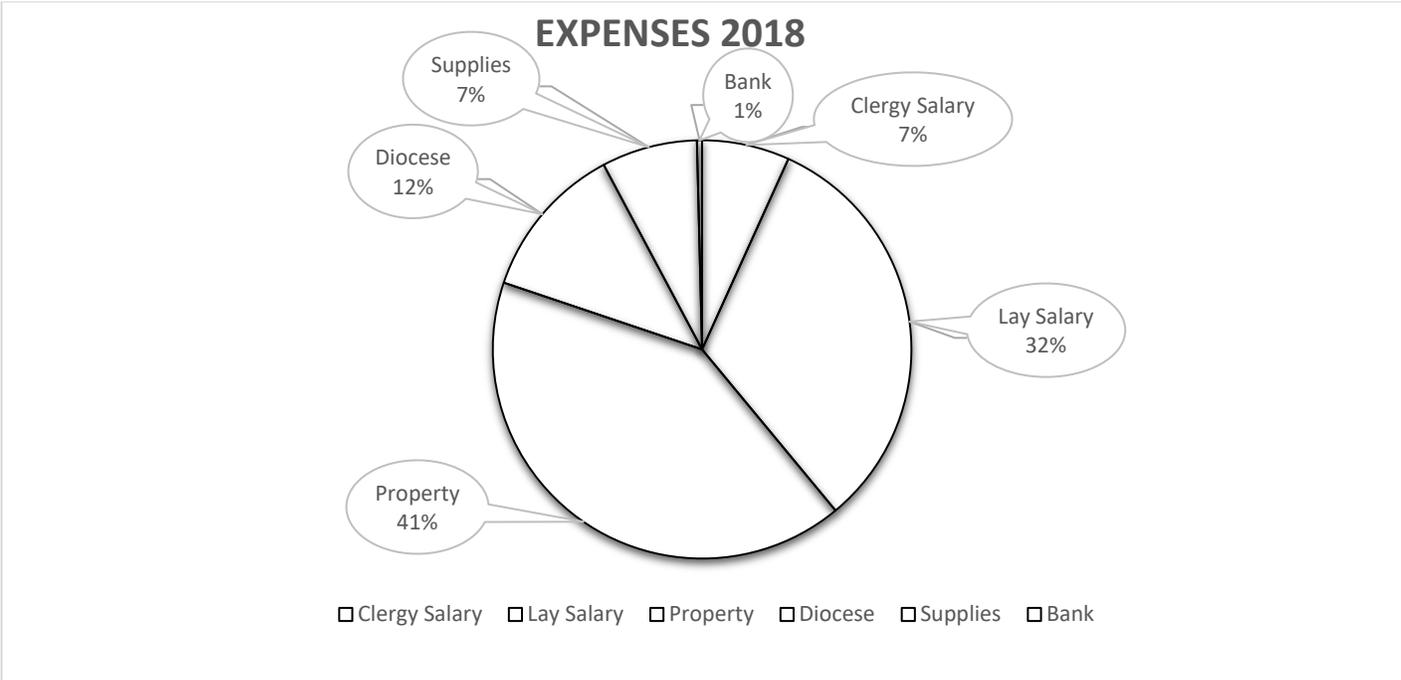
## INCOME 2018



### Income 2018 (with comparisons from 2017)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Offertory	\$428,500	\$420,579	\$7921	Sunday & Holy Day contributions, Fuel & Property Management collections
Interest	976	764	203	Interest from Diocesan Central Fund
Fundraising	17,333	18,918	-1585	Christmas Fair \$16,066, no yard sale 2018
Stole Fees	7830	7365	465	Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms
Bequests	189,397	43,098	146,299	Bequests & Capital Campaign
RE Tuition	10,340	9067	1273	Enrollment & program increase
Other income	2993	8233	-5240	Bulletin income late (FY2019), candles
Other Donations	6579	6578	1	Flower donations
Cost Credits	34,606	12,600	22,006	Cemetery \$4200, Food Pantry \$9800 Lightning strike insurance 20,606
<b>Total income</b>	<b>698,545</b>	<b>527,202</b>	<b>171,343</b>	

Sunday contributions and contributions to the Property and Fuel collections make up 80% of the income of the Parish. Our offertory increased \$7921 this past year. In addition, Parishioners raised \$17,333 from the Christmas Fair. Religious Education enrollment experienced an increase resulting in a \$1273 increase. Insurance reimbursements from the June, 2017 lightning strike on the Plaistow campus are reflected in the FY 2018 budget.



**Expenses 2018 (with comparisons from 2017)**

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Clergy Salary & Benefits	\$44,031	42,129	-1902	Salary for Pastor, Diocesan insurance & benefits, medical insurance, expenses for household in Newton
Lay Salaries & Benefits	209,762	202,995	-6767	4 full time & 2 part-time employees Medical insurance costs up \$1536.
Property Expenses	286,016	98,379	-169,637	Property & liability insurance, utilities, snow & trash removal, equipment service contracts, fire alarm service, maintenance of campus buildings. Lightning strike (June 2017) charged to FY 2018 26,000, Capital Campaign expenses 125,000
Diocesan Assessments	78,348	78,039	-309	Diocesan Clergy retirement & sick funds, Diocesan Administration costs, Catholic school subsidy
Supplies	48,127	40,156	-7971	All church liturgical supplies, music, Office supplies, faith formation programs, printing & postage
Bank charges	2580	2576	-4	Bank service charges
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>650,864</u>	<u>464,274</u>	<u>-186,590</u>	

Salaries and benefits make up 39% of the Parish’s expenses. Diocesan assessments - which the Parish continues to struggle to pay – make up 12% of Parish expenses. The expenses for property reflect the Capital Campaign roof project in Plaistow, electric utilities, fuel oil and other property expenses. Program expenses were reduced \$1567 from FY 2016, a continuing trend.

# Some definitions...

## INCOME

**Offertory:** Money associated with the regular weekly collection from Masses. This includes Sunday collection, Holy Days, Fuel & Property Management collections

**Stole fee:** Donations associated with the celebration of the sacraments

**Diocesan collections:** Charitable collections for specific groups or causes, exclusive of the Diocesan Assessments (ex. Catholic Relief Services, Retired Religious Fund, Church in Eastern Europe, etc.)

**Fundraising:** Monies derived from any fundraising activity; principally from the Parish Christmas Fair

**Other donations:** Monies given to the Parish outside of regular offertory

## EXPENSES

**Diocesan assessments:** Monies assessed on the basis of Parish gross income for the Diocesan Administration, Catholic Schools, property and liability insurance, workmen's compensation, Diocesan programs, clergy retirement fund, clergy health insurance, clergy continuing education, and Cathedral expenses. Certain special collections are "taxed" at a specific percentage of the Parish gross income (Seminary Fund, Peter's Pence, Parish to Parish Mission Fund, Catholic University/USCCB)

**Program expenses:** Costs associated with RCIA, Religious Education, Scripture Sharing, Lenten Journey, adult education programs, music and youth ministry

**Property expenses:** Costs associated with insurance, utilities, fuel oil, snow removal, equipment and building service contracts

**Supplies:** All liturgical supplies for churches, music and subscriptions for music, faith formation publications, printing & postage. Costs associated with all Parish programs and activities