



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 9, 2018
Second 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 A Voice Cries Out BB 44

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Waiting In Silence BB 41
In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 324

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 We Will Rise Again BB 439
Every Valley BB 66

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace

Communion Servant Song BB 376
People Look East BB 40

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63



Find us on:
facebook®

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.

✠ 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 25, 2018

Offertory \$5,548.92
Christmas Flowers \$2,439.37

December 2, 2018

Offertory \$7,133.67
Property Management \$1,896.53

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 9, 2018 Retired Religious Fund
December 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 ✠

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.

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 are on **Mondays at 9:00 AM** and **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM** in the Plaistow Church Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per class, and for seniors on a fixed income, the cost is \$3.00 per class.

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. Please choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

From the Pastor's Desk

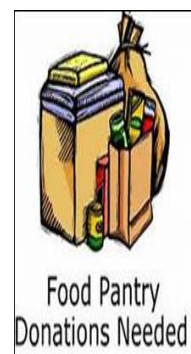


HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is now closed 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.

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 / WINTER...

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 12
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, December 13

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, December 15

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 16

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



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Timothy J. Holland
by his parents

**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 8 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Advent

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

4:00 PM	Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse	<i>Plaistow</i>
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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	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Mary Sceggell (1 st Anniversary) by Carole Lueders	<i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, December 10 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

8:00 AM	Mark Burke (Birthday Remembrance) by his family	<i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, December 11 ~ Damasus I, Pope

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

8:00 AM	People of the Parish	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47*

6:30 PM	Wayne Bettencourt by Janice Bettencourt	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, December 13 ~ Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

8:00 AM	Intentions of Paul Fournier by Dan & Jean Lloyd	<i>Newton</i>
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Friday, December 14 ~ John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

No Mass

Saturday, December 15 ~ Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1-4; 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (Day)

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 16 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

8:00 AM	Paula Schena by Jim and Mary Ann Downs	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel	<i>Plaistow</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.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

SEQUENCE OF THE INITIATION SACRAMENTS

Many dioceses are in the process of restoring the sacrament of Confirmation to its rightful place in the initiation sequence: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This honors a very ancient tradition and reflects the sequence in which the sacraments are celebrated in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). For much of this century many parishes in the U.S. have been postponing Confirmation. They thought that in junior high or high school young people were better able to make a personal decision and an "adult commitment" to Christ and to the church. Thus, we separated Confirmation from its real roots as a sacrament of initiation into the faith community. We threw it out of its historical sequence. We tried to make it stand out there by itself. There were some very positive pastoral results when we did this: more participation in faith formation programs until a later age and a more mature experience of sacramental life. But, there is wisdom in the ancient tradition of having the three sacraments of initiation celebrated in their traditional order: Baptism, Confirmation, and then Eucharist. In Baptism, we are immersed in the death and resurrection of Christ. In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Eucharist, we sit with the community at the banquet of life which prepares us for the eternal banquet. Eucharist is, and should be, the ultimate peek of our sacramental life. Now we need to assess what we are doing with sacraments in the church. Our ancient tradition has much to teach us, as is evident from our experience with the RCIA in our parishes. The way we initiate new members into the church can also teach us how our own children should experience the sacraments of initiation. Since the 1970's had two contrasting supplemental practices. On the one hand, those becoming Catholics, including children as young as seven, celebrated all three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. On the other hand, in some parishes the children raised from infancy as Catholics were told that they wouldn't be ready for Confirmation until they were teens. Restoring the traditional sequence of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist for the Catholic youngsters will make us consistent in our practice.

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.

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.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, January 6, 2019** 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.

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

✠ 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 ✱



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please return your gift - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 8-9**

CATECHUMEN

Please continue to pray for our Catechumen,
Brent MacKenzie.

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!

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER

**Christmas Concert - December 15, 2018
Immaculate Conception Church
216 Dunstable Road, Nashua, NH**

People of ALL AGES and religions are invited for an evening of worship with a Christmas Concert, dynamic speaker, and exciting social gathering. Beginning at 7:30 PM, the night kicks off with a Christmas Concert. Mandy Powers of New England's legendary B-Street Bombers joins us again, along with some new, unbelievably talented special guests - Sammie Moore and the Here On Earth Worship Band. Following the concert, dynamic priest and Assistant Vocations Director for Manchester, NH, Fr. Von DeRosia, will give a talk titled "Who Would Imagine A King?" This talk will lead into a time of Adoration and Praise and Worship. Finishing the night off, a local young adult group, Thrive Young Adults, will get the party going with some Christmas Carol Karaoke, pizza, and hot chocolate! For more information, please email info@JESUSaCROSStheBorder.org.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the Christmas holiday 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**

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.

CHRISTMAS VACATION – ST. ANDREW DINNER

St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow him. We would like to invite college students who are home for vacation and other men in our diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner. This dinner will be held at St. Patrick Parish in Pelham, NY on **Friday, January 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at rvinson@rcbm.org or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Kimberly's 13th 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 13th 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. Thank you so much for your generosity.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Ready to Forgive

Father of mercy,
you give us prophets who call us back
to you
by proclaiming your mercy and
loving kindness.
You give us John the Baptist,
a prophet to bridge the old and
new covenants
with a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.
Give us strength in our weak moments,
lift us up when we fall,
and always reassure us
that you are ready to forgive
every time we leave behind what
separates us from you,
and turn back to you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 9, 2018
The Salvation of our God



Today's Readings: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6. While kings and priests go about their important work, something is happening in the desert. “The word of God” comes to John, whose birth was surrounded by such marvelous events that people had asked, “What, then, will this child be?” (Luke 1:66). John, the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, is “a voice . . . crying out in the desert.” He has an urgent message for the people of his time: to prepare the way of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord comes to us, too, when we take a rest from our work and withdraw to a place of silence. Try to spend ten minutes a day this week in silence, opening your heart to Jesus, making straight his paths by removing resent-

ment, bitterness, vengeful thoughts, anger, greed, envy, and anything else that might block his path. His great desire is to enter our hearts with the healing that he alone can bring.

With the path cleared, Jesus will amaze us with what he can do. He will lower mountains and hills in our life that had seemed insurmountable, straighten winding roads that seem to be leading nowhere, and smooth rough ways that are difficult to navigate.

As the love of Christ makes a home in our heart, it will begin to overflow to every person and situation in our life. We will be ready to celebrate Christmas with joy, knowing that it is but a foretaste of the joy we will know when Christ returns “and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 10

Bringing Others to Jesus

As in today's Gospel, people with disabilities sometimes need friends to bring them to Jesus. Does someone need a ride to Mass? Can all people access our church, sanctuary, religious education, and social spaces? Are children and adults with disabilities invited to participate in religious education and liturgical ministries? We must ask these questions if we are to say that "all are welcome." *Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 5:17-26.*

Tuesday, December 11

The Good Shepherd's Love

The metaphor of God as Shepherd and us as his sheep dates to the Old Testament. Isaiah compares God to a shepherd who feeds, carries, and leads his flock. In the New Testament, Jesus calls himself the "Good Shepherd." Today's Gospel has an example of how he is "good": when just one of us goes astray, he leaves the others behind to search for that one. God never forgets about us or gives up on us. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Matthew 18:12-14.*

Wednesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary, lowly and poor herself, showed concern for the poor when she appeared, with brown skin and wearing indigenous robes, to Juan Diego near Mexico City in 1531. She asked him to build a church in her honor. His bishop disbelieved such a story from this poor indigenous man. Three days later, when she told him to ask again, dozens of red roses dropped from his cloak, and the bishop saw the image of Mary imprinted on it. He built the church! Mary gave hope to Mexico's oppressed people, and to this day she is invoked to intercede for the poor and suffering. *Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:39-47.*

Thursday, December 13

St. Lucy

In the Gospel, Jesus sings the praises of John the Baptist, who will soon be martyred at the hands of Herod. Today the Church honors another martyr, St. Lucy, who died in AD 304 during a Roman persecution of Christians. She is said to have brought food to Christians hiding in the catacombs, wearing a wreath of candles to light her way. Lucy means "light," and we remember her during this season of waiting for the Light of the World. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Matthew 11:11-15.*

Friday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

The first psalm is a recipe for a happy and fruitful life: "The law of the Lord is their joy; God's law they study day and night." John of the Cross, in sixteenth-century Spain, was called to a life of prayer in a Carmelite monastery. When other friars turned on him and imprisoned him for nine months, he had encounters with God that he described in mystical poems. He spent those days and nights joyfully with nothing to distract him from the love of the Lord. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11:16-19.*

Saturday, December 15

An End to Wrath

Today we hear about the great prophet Elijah. Taken to heaven in a whirlwind, he is to return as a forerunner of the Messiah: "to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord." Jesus, who has just been transfigured and appeared with Moses and Elijah, explains that John the Baptist has fulfilled the mission of Elijah. Who will prepare the way for the Messiah's return? Who among us helps to turn hearts toward God and each other? *Today's Readings: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13.*





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.

Contact info: Trisha Mainella, mpatrisia88@gmail.com.



Maybe

it's time

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

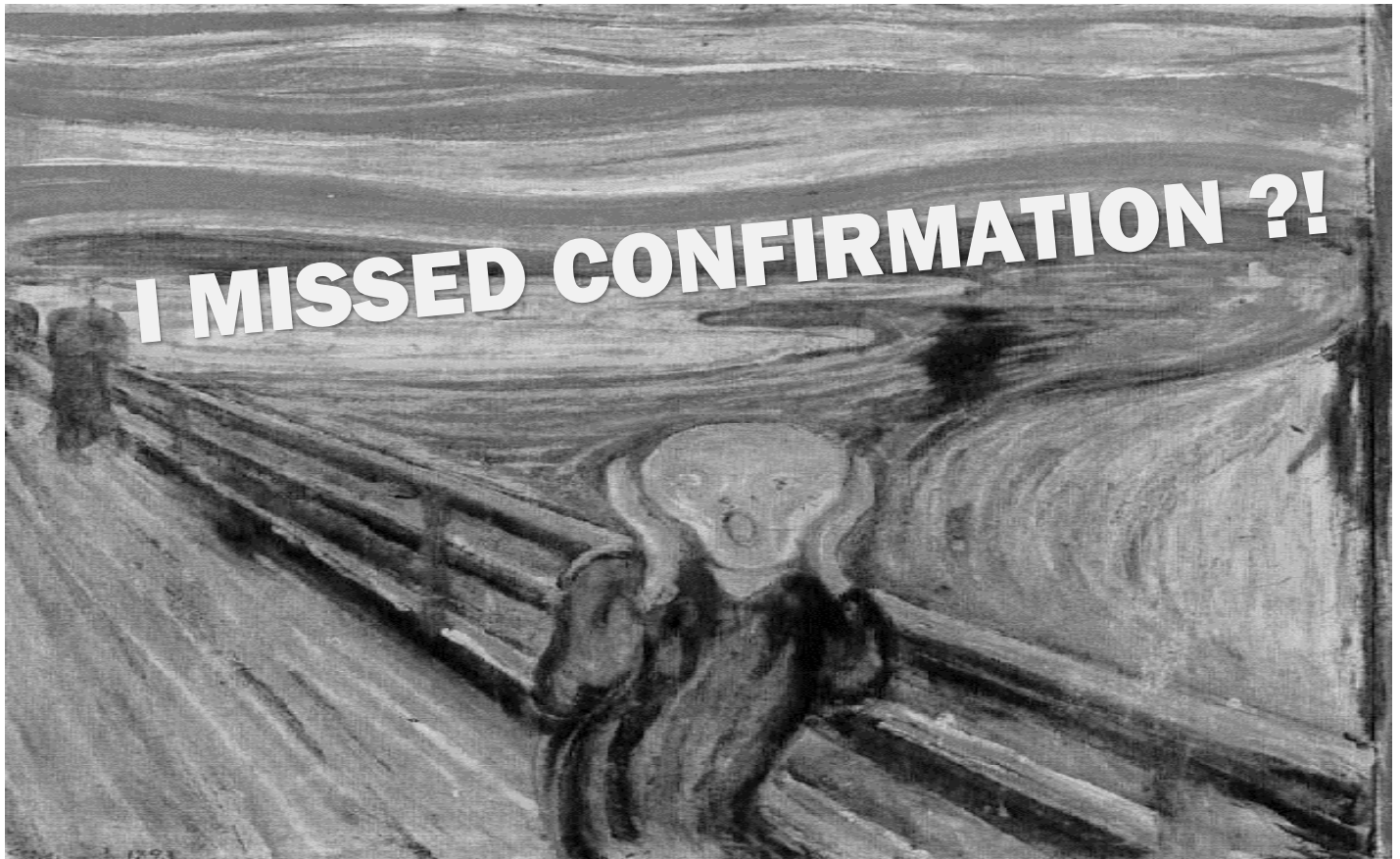
So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

Maybe it's your time.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow
603 382 8324. www.stlukenh.org



It is true that in the Diocese of Manchester, the age for the celebration of Confirmation is heading down to 3rd grade, where by 2021, students all over NH will receive Confirmation and Eucharist for the first time at age 8.

But it isn't too late for older children and teenagers to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation!

Special preparation programs for older children and teens are available. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 603.382.8324 for more information.

A Confirmation preparation program for adults (18+) is also available! Contact the Parish Office (above number) for more information.

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Pflaum
Gospel Weeklies
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

2nd Sunday of Advent • December 9, 2018 • John the Baptist Announces Good News

Sunday Readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: How will you prepare your heart and home for Jesus' coming at Christmas?

Gospel Question: What does God becoming human mean to you?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Rewrite the first sentence of this Gospel passage, substituting names appropriate to your times: president, governor, local "bigwigs", religious leaders. Don't forget to put in your name as the one to whom the Word of God comes.

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What activities can you do to help prepare during Advent?

Gospel Question: What do the prophets of Advent tell us about God?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: How are you preparing for Jesus' birth at Christmas?

Gospel Question: What do you need to turn away from this Advent?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What are your favorite ways to get ready for Christmas?

Gospel Question: What is a prophet?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What are some ways your family prepares for your birthday?

Gospel Question: What are some ways you can prepare this Advent for Jesus' birthday?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: What are some things you see in Creation everyday?

Gospel Question: What are things in Creation you are thankful to God for?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

John the Baptist told people Jesus was coming to save them. He shared the Good News of Jesus, and we should too. John gave hope to people. He was not afraid to talk about Jesus' coming and to encourage people to turn away from sin.

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

Share the Sign of Peace or a smile with someone you don't know.

Question of the Week

In what new ways can you share Jesus with others?



Family Prayer

Lord, help us to recognize what hurts your heart and have the courage to work to change it.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Juan Bautista dijo a la gente que Jesús venía para salvarlos. Compartió la Buena Nueva de Jesús, y nosotros debemos hacer lo mismo. Juan dio esperanza a la gente. No tenía miedo de hablar sobre la venida de Jesús y de animar a la gente a alejarse del pecado.

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/readings para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Compartan el saludo de paz o una sonrisa con alguien que no conozcan.

Pregunta de la semana

¿De qué maneras nuevas puedes compartir a Jesús con los demás?



Oración en familia

Señor, ayúdanos a reconocer qué lastima tu corazón y a tener el valor de trabajar para cambiarlo

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

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 (<i>A Holy Day of Obligation</i>) LITURGY: 6:30 PM – Vigil - Plaistow
Saturday, December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>A Holy Day of Obligation</i>) 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)
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 th Advent Sunday (Plaistow)
Sunday, December 23	8:00 am Liturgy, 4 th Advent Sunday (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, 4 th Advent Sunday (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE (*A Holy Day of Obligation*)

Monday, December 24	VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)
Tuesday, December 25	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9:00 am Liturgy (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 (<i>A Holy Day of Obligation</i>) (Plaistow)
Tuesday, January 1	9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (<i>A Holy Day of Obligation</i>) (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



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018

Get Ready to Invite Jesus In

By Mary Katharine Deeley

One of the most memorable questions I have ever been asked came during a conversation with a spiritual director. During my marriage-preparation retreat, he asked about the upcoming wedding. I told him about all the preparations and how I felt I was on top of things. He gently asked, “I know you’re prepared, but are you ready?” It was the first time I really thought about the difference. We were certainly prepared. The flowers had been ordered, the ceremony set, and the caterer knew exactly what we wanted. We were in control. But being ready for the great

unknown of marriage, a lifelong vocation, was another thing altogether. Being ready suggested that we won’t always be in control and that, no matter what happens, we were in it for life and would face whatever comes together.

The prophet Isaiah describes the one (John the Baptist) who prepares the way of the Lord. He will do this by preaching to and baptizing those who come to him. The preparation for the coming Messiah is in his hands. He poses the question, “Are you ready for the one who is to come?” Thinking beyond our religious practices and Christmas preparations, what does that really mean for us? Maybe this year it means looking into our own hearts for the longing for Christ. Perhaps we’ll make room for him in our busy lives and our busier thoughts. We might even stop our preparations long enough to remember just who is coming and invite him in. Are you ready? +

Sunday Readings

Baruch 5:1–9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on forever the splendor of glory from God.

Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception.

Luke 3:1–6

[The prophet Isaiah wrote,]
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”

*We were in control. But
being ready for the great
unknown of marriage was
another thing altogether.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Immaculate Conception leads us to contemplate Our Lady who, by unique privilege, was preserved from original sin from the very moment of her conception. Even living in a world marked by sin, she was not touched by it: Mary is our sister in suffering, but not in evil or in sin.

—Angelus, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Am I able to give up some control in life to follow God’s plan for me?
- Have I taken a break in Christmas preparations and searched my heart for a longing for Christ?

Why Truth Is Sacred

By Kathy Coffey

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16).

Aunt Martha sports a hideous new dress that accentuates her bulges. What do you say? Perhaps you cop out: “Fuschia is certainly your color!” Maybe you describe the hidden reality: “You’re so cheerful!” But in this case the truth, “That’s the ugliest dress I’ve ever seen,” is cruel. Even the most honest person wouldn’t insult his or her aunt.

The example may oversimplify the complex situations in which we find ourselves today. We’ve recently seen deception by people we have placed our trust in. Countries go to war based on wobbly intelligence. Priests with a history of child abuse have been placed in parishes without sufficient concern for the need to protect possible new victims.

But we can’t point our fingers at others until we turn it on ourselves. As children we may have figured out that small lies were OK, as long as we didn’t get caught. As adolescents we learned to protect our fragile egos by broadcasting the positives and concealing the negatives about ourselves. As adults we struggle to maintain a balance between privacy and intimacy. We don’t want to “tell all” as on a talk show. But we also know that those we love deserve the full truth about



about himself grow grandiose and far from reality, but sadly, he believes them. Brendan gets caught up in the fiction. He always stars in the latest exploit. But by now, no one is sure it really happened.

Molly, on the other hand, gives flesh to the saying, “She knows who she is.” People needing an honest opinion count on her to give it. She trusts them with the truth because she believes they can handle it. She openly admits that she’s done her time in therapy. Without boring people too much, she’ll explain that alcohol is poison for her system. She knows her dark side as well as her assets and conveys a hard-won authenticity.

So this business of truth-telling gets more complex than Aunt Martha’s dress. The biblical origins of our tradition show why truth is revered as sacred.

Jesus, Our Model

The perfect example of inner solidity comes from Jesus. When the soldiers approach him in the Garden of Olives,

ourselves, even when it’s painful to reveal.

The Whole Truth

Here are two examples. Brendan is the life of the party, an Irish storyteller. No one minds when he exaggerates; it makes the stories better. Unfortunately, that strategy carries into his personal life. His ideas

he doesn’t hide. In fact, he initiates the conversation: “Whom are you looking for?” When they answer, “Jesus the Nazorean,” he says simply, “I AM” (John 18:4–5). What if Jesus had fudged? Suspecting what was ahead, he could have said, “Oh no, you’ve got the wrong guy. I just look like him.” He might have escaped. Instead, he stands in his truth, despite what that will cost.

What does Jesus model for us? When, like Brendan, we create myths about ourselves to impress others, we deny what is far more wonderful about us: our likeness to God. When we perpetuate the falsehoods of advertising, we prefer appearance to reality. When we tolerate phoniness, we refuse God the praise that even a blade of grass or an honest dandelion can give.

Thomas Merton says that our response to God’s initial word is to become God’s words: God’s answer and echo. To do that, we must hone our words to the most honest, accurate ones we can find. Thus, we honor the Eighth Commandment. +



Lord, you are always patient with me and do great things for me. Teach me to be more patient in life and grateful for all that has been given to me.

—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 10–15

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 35:1–10 / Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 40:1–11 / Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday, Our Lady of Guadalupe:
Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab /
Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47

Thursday, St. Lucy:
Is 41:13–20 / Mt 11:11–15

Friday, St. John of the Cross:
Is 48:17–19 / Mt 11:16–19

Saturday, Advent Weekday:
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 / Mt 17:9a, 10–13