



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 16, 2018
Third 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 Maranatha BB 67

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Song Of The Body Of Christ BB 332
I Received The Living God BB 326

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 Mary's Song BB 693
Lo How A Rose BB 82

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace

Communion My Soul Rejoices BB 819
Patience, People BB 47

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!

December 8, 2018

Immaculate Conception \$1,197.00

December 9, 2018

Offertory \$6,525.11
Retired Religious Fund \$1,338.00

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 16, 2018 Fuel
December 23, 2018 No Second Collection

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

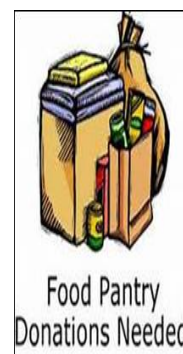


HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

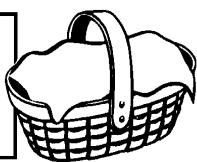
✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

<u>Sunday, December 16</u>		
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	Plaistow
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Newton
<u>Tuesday, December 18</u>		
6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	Plaistow
<u>Wednesday, December 19</u> HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER		
7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	Plaistow
<u>Thursday, December 20</u>		
8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	Newton
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	Plaistow
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	Newton
<u>Saturday, December 22</u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow
<u>Sunday, December 23</u>		
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	Plaistow
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Newton



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

**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 15 ~ Vigil / Third Sunday of Advent **Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18**

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

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
Newton

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

Monday, December 17 ~ Late Advent Weekday **Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17**

8:00 AM Faith Hume (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, December 18 ~ Late Advent Weekday **Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25**

8:00 AM Mary G. Stevens (6th Anniversary)
by her sister, Marjorie Knowles
Plaistow

Wednesday, December 19 ~ Late Advent Weekday **Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25**

6:30 PM Don Nadeau by Bob and Sandy Nadeau
Plaistow

Thursday, December 20 ~ Late Advent Weekday **Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38**

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

Friday, December 21 ~ Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
No Mass

Saturday, December 22 ~ Late Advent Weekday **1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 (Day)**

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Eugene and Eliza Ian by their family
Plaistow

Sunday, December 23 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent **Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45**

8:00 AM Joseph A. and Isabelle Krafton by their family
Newton

10:00 AM Mark Bloom by Knights of Columbus,
St. Jude Council #6617
Plaistow

CATECHUMEN

Please continue to pray for our Catechumen,
Brent MacKenzie.

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 ✠

EUCHARIST IS THE CULMINATION SACRAMENT

The Eucharist is the summit in the center of our lives in the church community. In its celebration we become rooted in the mystery of the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. We anticipate the heavenly banquet already here on earth. All the other sacraments either lead to the Eucharist or flow from the Eucharist.

By our pastoral adaptations during the 20th century, we seem to treat Confirmation as the “crowning sacrament,” not the Eucharist. We did this especially by delaying its celebration and requiring longer and more elaborate preparation.

Baptism and Confirmation prepare us for the celebration of Eucharist. By Baptism we have been given access to the family of God's New Covenant people. In Confirmation we have been sealed in the relationship of community in the body of Christ. Thus, we have a right to sit at the “family table” on Sundays and share in the body and blood of the Lord.

Confirmation functions as a sealing of Baptism and as a qualification for the Eucharistic assembly. Confirmation, therefore, should be celebrated *between* Baptism and Eucharist, *before* Eucharist, not after.

A number of adult Catholics have never been confirmed in the church. There is something missing, spiritually, in the lives of those who have not been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The church in this diocese will restore the traditional order in which the sacraments of initiation have celebrated: Baptism in infancy, usually, and then Confirmation and First Communion. Then the weekly celebration of the Eucharist will truly become a feast of the family, with all its members being fully initiated.

All Catholics in New Hampshire are being asked to reflect on this view of what it means to be confirmed. And as we adjust our perspective on the place of Confirmation, the preeminent place of the Eucharist is more clearly highlighted.

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 ✠

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Parish Office will be closed from **December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019**. The Office will reopen on Wednesday, January 2 at 8:30 AM.

NO ADORATION

There will be NO Adoration during Christmas Week.

CAMPS FATIMA AND BERNADETTE

Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2019 summer season. The camps, located in the Lakes Region on NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children aged 6-15. To request a brochure and DVD, contact Michael Drumm at 603-364-5851 or mdrumm@bfcamp.com. Please don't wait as sessions fill up quickly!

WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the long-standing inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.**

In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. During winter time storms and the clean up associated with major snowfall, access to the campuses in Newton and Plaistow will be restricted. Public notification of the closure will be accomplished through the Office of Religious Education and the Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten as in the past; Parishioners need only to look for indications of Timberlane or Sanborn school districts closure to assume that Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish is also closed.

The Parish Office and Liturgical schedule will typically be observed as usual even if school districts post a delay in their opening times.

In the event of winter events on a weekend, the Pastor, Facilities Director and Religious Education Coordinator will continue to work together to determine whether or not to cancel class meetings, Parish events or outside group activities. Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the Christmas holiday upon us, we have the following early bulletin deadlines:

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

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!

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.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



God of Truth

God of truth,
you help us to see ourselves for who
we are
in our selfishness and sinfulness.
We are stung
and left to ask,
“What should we do?”
Strengthen us to follow your
Great Commandment:
to love you, Lord,
with all our heart, with all our soul,
with all our mind, and all our strength,
and our neighbor as ourselves.
Save us from your judgment
and instead rejoice over us
as we rejoice in your great kindness.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Rejoice! The Lord is near



Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. The people who gather around John the Baptist are both stung by his words and attracted by what he is saying. Their self-interest and avarice have led them to dishonest practices, but now they seem willing to leave those ways behind to welcome the Christ.

John assures them that, although he is not the Christ, another is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The anticipation is building, and we can imagine their excitement as they await his coming.

Excitement is building in the Church as we move through Advent. This Third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete,” a word that means “rejoice.” St. Paul tells us why: “the Lord is near.” We know, as John’s disciples only hoped,

that the Lord has come and lived among us as one of us. That alone is cause for rejoicing. We also know that he died and was raised from the dead, and he shares his risen life with us through the Baptism promised by John. More reason to rejoice! But since God has extravagant love, there is more. Jesus has promised he will return, that there will be new heavens and a new earth, and God will be “all in all.” We wait for that day, the Parousia, rejoicing that the Lord is near.

As you light the rose-colored candle on your Advent wreath this week, recall the day when you were baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. What words and signs help you to know that the Lord was near on that day and continues to be with you? How is your life different because of your Baptism? Are you on fire with love for God?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 17 Meet Jesus' Family

In the Middle East, even today, people care about family history. They don't want to know so much "who are you?" as "whose are you?" Matthew obliges by giving us Jesus' family tree. To fulfill the prophecies of the Messiah, he must come from the line of King David. Since Abraham is the father of all Jews, the genealogy must go back to him. What does Jesus' genealogy tell us about our heritage? Whose are we? *Today's Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*

Tuesday, December 18 A Righteous Man

Today we hear an account of Jesus' birth from Joseph's perspective, including his dream in which an angel spoke to him. Matthew calls Joseph "a righteous man," and his deeds show him to be so: He does not want to expose Mary to shame. He listens to the angel, and he follows the angel's commands. How does God make his will known to us? Are we listening? Are we willing to do something that might be difficult? *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.*

Wednesday, December 19 Flower of Jesse's Stem

The "O" Antiphons have for centuries been part of Evening Prayer from December 17 to 23. Each gives a title to Christ, links him to Isaiah's prophecy, and implores him to "come!" Today we pray, "O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid." Christ, who like King David descended from Jesse, is a king of a different order, adored by all nations. It is hard to wait for such a king! *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a; Psalm 71:3–4a, 5–6ab, 16–17; Luke 1:5–25.*

Thursday, December 20 Do Not Be Afraid

In Luke's account of the Annunciation, Mary is initially troubled at the angel's greeting; but after Gabriel assures her she has nothing to fear, she consents to be the mother of the Messiah. St. John writes: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear" (1 John 4:18a). Mary's perfect love for God allows her to accept God's plan for her life. Do your fears hold you back from giving your life totally to Jesus? *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, December 21 Leaping for Joy

Song of Songs uses poetic images for the love between God, the lover, and his people, the beloved. In *The History of the Kingdom of God: From Creation to Parousia*, theologian Sofia Cavalletti writes, "A plan has always existed in the mind of God, the aim of which is to bring humankind to the full enjoyment of God." While we await that day, we can enjoy God's presence now. John leaps for joy in his mother's womb in recognition of Jesus, just as the lover in the Song of Songs leaps across the hills on his way to the beloved. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

Saturday, December 22 The Greatness of the Lord

Have you ever felt a strong desire to praise God—perhaps while on a mountaintop or at the birth of a child? When Mary hears Elizabeth's greeting, she is overcome with that desire. As she proclaims the Magnificat, she praises God for his holiness, justice, and great deeds. Her prayer reveals so much about our God and offers such perfect praise that the Church prays it each day at Evening Prayer. *Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*





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."

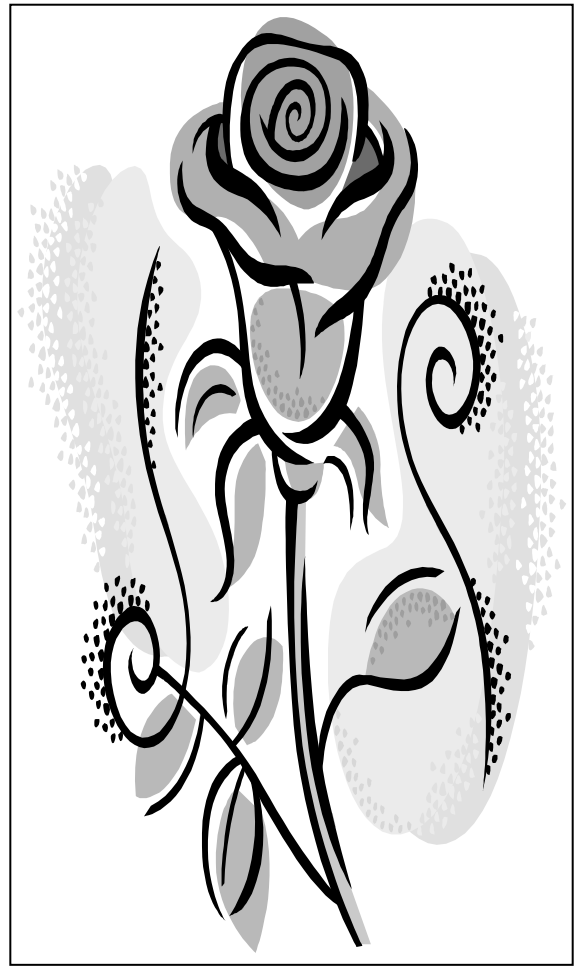
The Society meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church Hall in Plaistow. They host and participate in many fund raisers throughout the year. 100% of the funds donated through these fundraising efforts go directly towards helping the poor and underserved in our area. Once the need is made known 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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Why roses and joyful music on the third Sunday of Advent? It all starts with a golden rose. Long ago, the third Sunday of Advent was sort of a “break” in the fasting that was taking place before the celebration of Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent’s chants and songs talked about “looking up,” being “joy-filled and full of hope” at the nearness of the Savior. In church, the story of the Annunciation was common as the Gospel of the third Sunday of Advent.

The German name for the third Sunday of Advent was *Rosensonntag*, or the “Sunday of the Roses.” That name came as a result of 15th century German pilgrim’s witnessing Mass in Rome, where the Pope, after Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, would carry a golden rose in procession out of the church. The rose itself would be sent to an exemplary Christian after mass that day as a gift.



This custom was in use at Rome as far back as the 11th century, where the Pope would present bouquets of roses to people in the church on the third Sunday of Advent. Over the years, the real roses were replaced by golden roses, often encrusted with jewels. In churches all over Christendom in the West, the custom of presenting roses to exemplary Christians of a particular place caught on. From there, the liturgical color for the day was changed to reflect the joy of the liturgy and the custom of presenting roses – the Church wore “old rose” as a way to signal the nearness of the Christmas festival.

Today, we sing joyful songs and meditate on the image of the rose – whose purity and beauty are reflected in the person of the Blessed Mother Mary, and whose fragrance and loveliness are reflected in the coming “rose of the winter night” – Jesus, Immanuel.

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



COME, O COME....

Yes, you read the title right. That's "O" - the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, inner tubes, doughnuts, hula hoops, no hitters... and Advent. In many parishes, "O" is the first word said in the new church year. We sing it in Advent's most popular song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It announces the season which anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas.

This hymn, which is almost synonymous with the whole season of Advent was actually first composed and sung to announce that Advent was ending. **The last eight days of Advent (beginning on December 17 and ending on December 24) form a little season all by themselves.** As the church prepares to celebrate the nativity of Christ, the Liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At evening prayer, the Church prays a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament tradition. "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and, on Christmas eve, the greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us."

For the reasons which will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the "O Antiphons." They are a hallmark of late Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for centuries. The Mass now includes a version of them as the alleluia verses for the same eight days before Christmas.



In the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That “O” of course, simply tells us that we’re talking to someone. It is like saying, “Hey, you,” only more politely. But “O” reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end, like God’s love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

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O come, Thou **Wisdom** from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

O come, Thou **Rod of Jesse**, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou **Day-spring**, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
O Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou **Key of David**, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, great **Lord of might**,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou **Root of Jesse’s tree**,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

O come, **Desire of nations**, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

O come, O come, **Emmanuel**,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.





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.

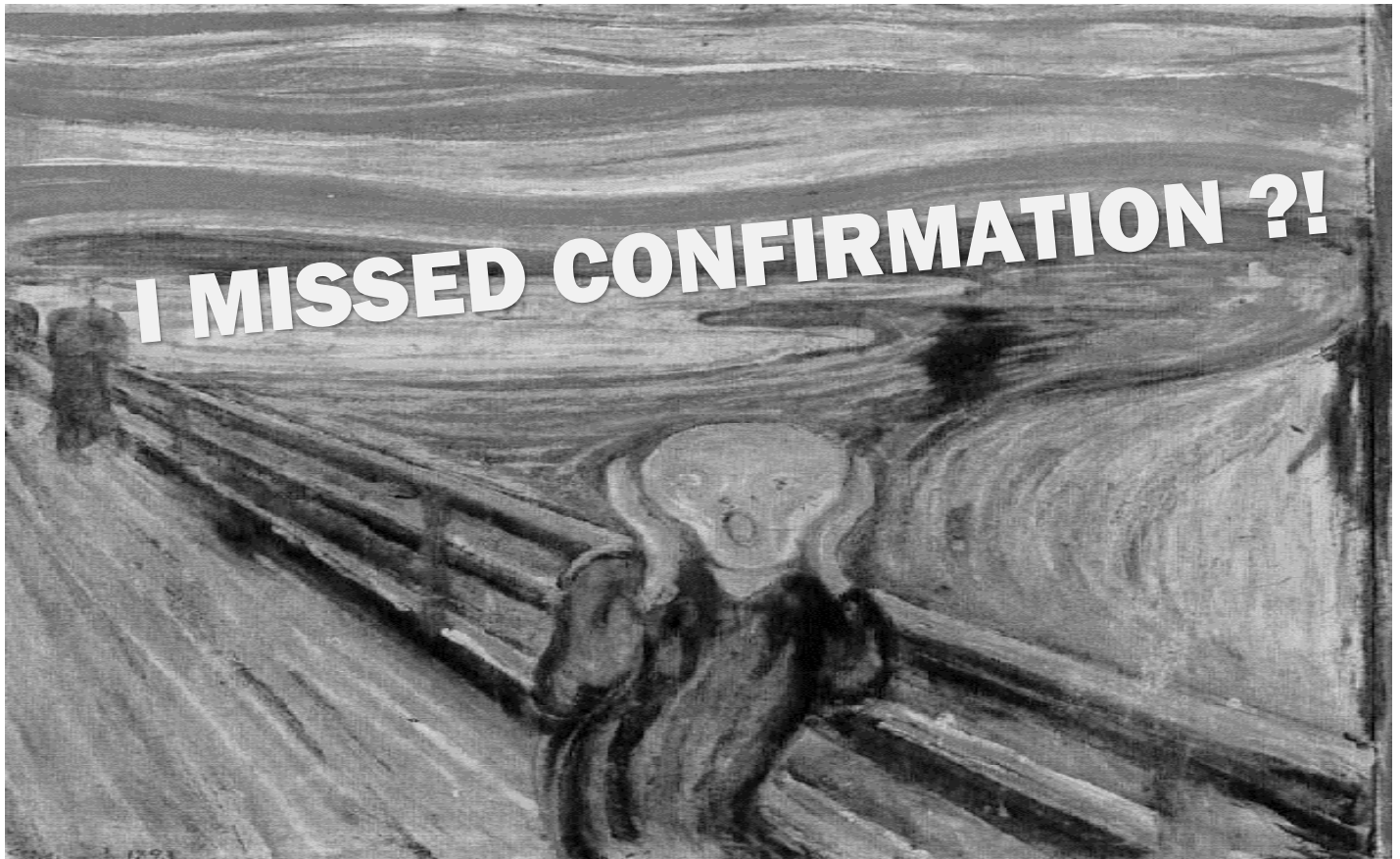
So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

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

Pfaffum
Gospel Weeklies
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

3rd Sunday of Advent • December 16, 2018 • John the Baptist Helps Us Prepare
Sunday Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: Who are the kind and gentle teachers in your life?

Gospel Question: What do you do with your extra coats? What do you do with your abundance?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

What should we do? This is the question people asked of John. Make a list of 10 things you think Christians should be doing.

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: Where do you go for good advice?

Gospel Question: What should we do as Christians with our extra coats, food, and wealth?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: Who in need has your family befriended?

Gospel Question: How does John the Baptist tell us to act with mercy?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What do you do with the toys and clothes you've outgrown?

Gospel Question: How does John the Baptist teach us to be generous with our belongings?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: How does your family share with others?

Gospel Question: During Advent how are you getting ready for Jesus' birth?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: What are ways a family gets ready for a new baby?

Gospel Question: How is your family getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

John the Baptist told people how to live holy lives. The people had a real desire to change for the better; they wanted to hear truth. They wondered if John was the Messiah, but he told them about someone who would be coming soon (Jesus) who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

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

In Church

Look around your church for images of the Holy Spirit (e.g., fire, wind, dove).

Question of the Week

How can the Holy Spirit help you on your faith journey?



Family Prayer

Holy Spirit, you move us and help us change. Teach us to follow Jesus in all things.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Juan Bautista contó a la gente cómo vivir una vida santa. La gente tenía un gran deseo de cambiar para bien, y quería oír la verdad. Se preguntaba si Juan era el Mesías, pero él contó a la gente acerca de alguien que vendría pronto (Jesús) que bautizaría con el Espíritu Santo.

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

En la Iglesia

Mira en tu iglesia y busca imágenes del Espíritu Santo (por ej. fuego, viento, paloma).

Pregunta de la semana

¿De qué manera el Espíritu Santo te puede ayudar en tu camino de fe?



Oración en familia

Espíritu Santo, tú nos mueves y nos ayudas a cambiar. Enséñanos a seguir a Jesús en todas las cosas



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, invites you to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Even if you are unable to attend meetings, your talents are more than welcome.

Shawls can be made with yarn, quilt fabric, or fleece. They are filled with prayer, care and love. They will be given to anyone in need of comfort or solace.

If you are interested in prayerful camaraderie or just want to contribute your talent, consider joining our committee.

If you know of someone that is in need of comfort and would like to receive a gift from our group, please call to make the request.

Barbara Metcalf

603-642-8334

cmbklb@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule:

- First Thursday of each month, except July and August.
- 10 A.M. – 12 Noon
- Parish office building (dining room)
- Material can be supplied

We are honored to provide this service to anyone in need.



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

Preparing for the Living Water of Christ

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I love waterfalls. When I'm out hiking, I'll take any side path that leads to a waterfall. The first time I swam in a waterfall pool was memorable. I'm not sure where this love came from, but there is something about the motion and sound of the water as it's falling that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul. I also know that waterfalls can be dangerous: The force of the water can sweep everything over the edge. Still, when Jesus refers to his living water in the encounter with the woman at the well (John 4), I immediately think

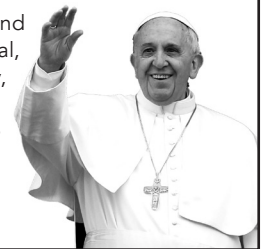
of water falling into a pool and the abundant life that grows around the area.

For Christians, water signifies both life and death. At creation, God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). God then used the waters of a flood to destroy wickedness on earth (while saving Noah and others). Water washes us clean and keeps us alive. On a recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to stand in the Jordan River and renew my own baptismal vows. I was struck by the power of the words and the coolness of the water. It also occurred to me that simply renewing my vows was not enough. Our promise, inherent in the Creed, is that we will live a life transformed by grace with the help of the Holy Spirit. That is both comforting and challenging. But Jesus, who is living water, whose Spirit brings us life and whose fire is ready to purify and make us ready, is with us now and forever. +

A Word from Pope Francis

Let us implore from on high the gift of commitment to the cause of peace. Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and our communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain. Peace throughout this world...Simply PEACE.

Address at Ground
Zero Memorial,
New York City,
September 25,
2015



Sunday Readings

Zephaniah 3:14–18a

Do not fear, Zion, do not be discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior.

Philippians 4:4–7

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything...make your requests known to God.

Luke 3:10–18

[John said,] "I am baptizing you with water...He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire."

There is something about the motion and sound of falling water that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I regularly attend Mass to experience Jesus' living water?
- Can I make time to celebrate baptismal anniversaries as well as family birthdays?

A New Way of Seeing

By Kathy Coffey

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16).

In the northern parts of the country, winter makes the land bleak and brown. As spring makes its gradual entrance, trees and grass reach deep into their roots for nurture. Perhaps it is like that with belief. When our lives seem wintry, people of faith grip the bedrock and, from that common core, surge into new life. We reach down into roots sunk so deep in tradition we cannot see their source. But we know they are there. We count on them for life.

If we try to go it alone, we quickly discover our impoverishment. To ignore God's graciousness is to risk condemnation. To count on grace is to take our place among the great ones who went before us.

While we may amuse ourselves with fantasies of martyrdom, we all face less dramatic Calvaries. The irritating colleague, the whiny child, the boring job, the repetitive housework, the chemotherapy, or the long commute: All represent places to which Christ calls us, the arenas where belief becomes action.

Do we believe the little stuff of our life can help shape us for greatness? Or do we relegate holiness to apostles and saints,



centuries ago? Just as we can neglect belief, we may mistakenly distance the grace of baptism to our past. But we can draw on baptism's power today. Any gardener knows that deep-rooted plants need water. So too the baptismal symbols offer a fresh start, full of potential and vigor.

Sharpened Vision

When we bring that symbolism into each day, we discover that we are washed not only in water, but in a new way of seeing. On a natural plane, we can all appreciate the yearning for rain after drought or a hot shower after dirty work. Jesus referred to himself as an exuberant fountain quenching our thirst: "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink" (John 7:37).

The postbaptismal anointing is an ancient act of strengthening. In the fourth century, St. Ambrose described the attraction of fragrant oils: "We shall run following the perfume of your robes." If the perfume industry can capitalize on lovely scents, Christians can recognize more profound overtones: We are marked with the symbol of God's beauty.

We who fret over problems at 3 AM know they become less formidable in the daylight. On his deathbed, the blind writer Goethe pleaded, "More light!" Jesus addresses our dread of darkness:

"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). One gift of baptism is the presentation of a burning candle with the words: "Receive the light of Christ."

Clothed in Christ

We know the difference clothing can make and how we feel when a new shirt rates a compliment. Garment imagery runs throughout Scripture, where we read: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

A name change in Scripture signaled a new person (Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, Cephas to Peter). So our baptismal name gives us a new identity in Christ. We know the security of the Good Shepherd calling us by name. The Book of Revelation adds, "On him I will inscribe the name of my God" (3:12).

The gifts of baptism renew our best selves so we can get on with the business of recreating the world. Energized by shared beliefs that root us firmly, by symbols that ground our identity, we can focus on dreams and hopes, not fears and anxieties. +



Lord, you are generous and kind to all your people. Instill within me a compassionate and generous heart, so I may respond to my poor sisters and brothers near and far away.

—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 17–22

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Jer 23:5–8 / Mt 1:18–25

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Saturday, Advent Weekday:
1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56