



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 30, 2018
The Holy Family Of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing BB 95
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)

*All the ends of the earth have seen
the power of God. (2x)*

Preparation O Little Town Of Bethlehem BB 91

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Ubi Caritas BB 479
Christ, Be Our Light BB 596

Recessional: Angels We Have Heard On High BB 97

10:00 AM

Gathering: Joy To The World BB 84

Dismissal: You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)

*All the ends of the earth have seen
the power of God. (2x)*

Preparation Like A Shepherd BB 607
Where Love Is Found BB 668

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace

Communion What Child Is This BB 105
Song Of The Stable

Recessional: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing BB 95



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 16, 2018

Offertory	\$6,383.80
Fuel	\$2,112.80

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
DECEMBER 23, 25, 30, 2018, and
JANUARY 1, 6, 2019
WILL APPEAR IN THE JANUARY 13 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 30, 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.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Tuesday, January 1 is the Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a holy day of obligation.

We will celebrate a Vigil Liturgy on **Monday, December 31 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow** and on **Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM in Newton.**



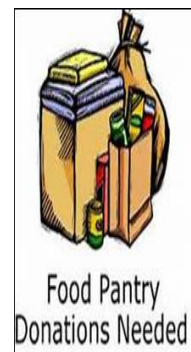
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2018, please call the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

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

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

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.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 30
10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*

Monday, December 31
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NO 8:00 AM MASS IN NEWTON

Tuesday, January 1
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NO 8:00 AM MASS IN PLAISTOW

Wednesday, January 2
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, January 3
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, January 5
12:00 PM Clothing Drive *Plaistow*
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 6
10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*
12:00 PM Clothing Drive *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*

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.

**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, January 16 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 29 ~ Vigil / Holy Family
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
4:00 PM Roland and Mary Guilmette by their family
Plaistow

Sunday, December 30 ~ Holy Family
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
8:00 AM Robert Haynes by Jim and Mary Ann Downs
Newton
10:00 AM Mark Bloom by the Knights of Columbus,
 St. Jude Council #6617
Plaistow

Monday, December 31 ~ Sylvester I, Pope
1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18 (Day)
Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 (Vigil)
4:00 PM In Thanksgiving for Blessing Received
Plaistow

Tuesday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
9:00 AM Lea Roberts by her husband, Paul
Newton

**Wednesday, January 2 ~ Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
6:30 PM Intentions of Jean Tobin by the Lanctot family
Plaistow

Thursday, January 3 ~ The Most Holy Name of Jesus
1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
8:00 AM Intentions of Paul Fournier by Dan & Jean Lloyd
Newton

Friday, January 4 ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
No Mass

Saturday, January 5 ~ John Neumann, Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51 (Day)
Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 (Vigil)
4:00 PM John Hofbauer by Ann Marie & Joseph Sheehan
Plaistow

Sunday, January 6 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
8:00 AM Deb Caron by Jim and Mary Ann Downs
Newton
10:00 AM Bill Lueders (15th Anniversary)
 by his wife, Carole
Plaistow

CATECHUMEN

Please continue to pray for our Catechumen,
Brent MacKenzie.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

A NEW WAY OF SEEING CONFIRMATION

In the Diocese of Manchester – all of New Hampshire - we are making plans to relocate the celebration of Confirmation to its rightful place as the sacrament of initiation: after Baptism and before First Communion.

Parents and catechists will prepare the children to experience both Confirmation and First Communion at the age of eight or nine, or school grade 3. This is not an added program, but simply a new way of seeing. In fact, it is important to clear our heads of the notion that a body of knowledge is needed before Confirmation can be received. Sacraments are gifts, not something we earn.

So, our teaching about Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist must take a new perspective. The combination of these three sacraments initiates us into the community of faith which is the body of Christ. We enter into church membership and fellowship through this initiation process. In the church, which is the body of Christ, we encounter the living Christ who is our Lord and Savior. Sacraments are not *things* that we received; they are *experiences* of a living organism, a living community of many members alive in the Holy Spirit with Christ as our head.

The primary sacrament of God is the Lord Jesus Christ. In him, God has become visible and is communicated to the world. The church is the sacrament of Christ. In the church, we encounter Christ who connects us to the heavenly Father. The seven sacraments of the church are those special experiences of the faith community when the church celebrates and becomes what it is meant to be: the body of Christ in the world. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist mark the beginning of the process for each of us.

The family environment is the normal place and context for religious formation. Parents must be alert to their increased responsibility for the faith development of the children now that Confirmation will have been celebrated at an earlier age.

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.

Our normal business hours are 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. The Parish Office is closed on Fridays.

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.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Kimberly's 13th Annual Holiday Give Away!

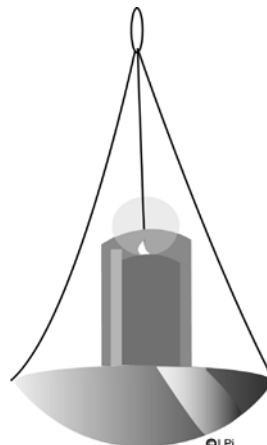
It's time again to clean your closets and start fresh!!! We all have clothes taking up space in our homes while there are people on the streets who are cold. Because of this, Kimberly Andrade is holding her 13th Annual Clothing/Coat/Canned Food Drive at **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish** in Plaistow, 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.



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse** by Elaine Kelcourse

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week for the **Intentions of the Daniels Family**

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



A Call to Prayer

God our Father,
you sent your beloved Son into the world
to share in our humanity.
From all time, you chose the Virgin Mary to
give birth to him,
and placed him in a human family.
With Mary, his mother, and Joseph,
her husband,
to nurture and care for him.
Still, you called him away from them to be
with you in your house

to study the Scriptures and commune with
his true Father.
We ask you to call us too, so that,
as much as we love our parents, our siblings,
and our children,
and desire to spend time with them,
we never forget that we need to spend time
with you each day,
to praise you, to thank you, to pour out our
hearts to you,
and to ask for your guidance.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 30, 2018
Honor Your Father and Mother



Today's Readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:41–52. When we are young and first learning the Ten Commandments, one that hits home is the Fourth Commandment: “honor your father and mother.” As we grow older, we realize that this commandment is not just about children obeying parents, but that it applies to our lives as much or more when we are adults.

The Book of Sirach, a Wisdom book from the Hebrew Scriptures, describes the goodness that comes from following this command at all stages of one's life. Sirach also defines what it means to honor: to care for, to be considerate,

to be kind; and what it means *not* to honor: to revile or to be a cause of grief.

When Jesus' parents find him in the temple, they have great anxiety, but Jesus explains that he needs to be in his Father's house. He has not stayed at the temple to dishonor Mary and Joseph, but rather to give honor to his Father.

Why is this commandment important? What would family life be like if children, including grown children, truly honored their parents at all times? Would we become less self-centered? Would elderly people experience less loneliness? What example would our children see?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 31

A New Beginning

On this last day of the year, our thoughts turn to resolutions for the new year. We can always think of areas of our life where we need to start over, and can look for ways to walk more closely with the Lord. Perhaps you could occasionally serve a meal at a homeless shelter, since this is a need every day of the year. How is the Lord asking you to serve his people this year? *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today we honor the Mother of God—and our mother—and recall her essential role in salvation history. The Gospel finds her after the visit of the shepherds, keeping “all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Her prayer and reflection give her strength for the joyful and sorrowful days ahead. We can follow her example so that when sad times come, we have trust that God will bring good from them. *Today's Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Wednesday, January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

John's letter warns early Christians not to be deceived by false teachings. Fourth-century friends Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen had a deep life of prayer lived out in a monastery and also served as bishops. Eloquent speakers, they discredited a heresy common in their day. Years of prayer deepened their relationship with the Lord and kept them from being deceived. Prayer and study of the Scriptures help us come to know God and his truth. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Thursday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

John the Baptist calls Jesus “Lamb of God” and “Son of God.” Gabriel tells Mary his name will be Jesus (meaning “Yahweh saves,” Luke 1:31), Son of the Most High, Ruler forever. An angel tells Joseph in a dream that Jesus will be Emmanuel (which means “God is with us,” Matthew 1:18–23). We are grateful to know these names, which help us to know the One they signify. The name of Jesus is itself a powerful prayer, always to be uttered with reverence and awe. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.*

Friday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Soon after Jesus invites Andrew to stay with him, Andrew calls his brother Simon, saying he has found the Messiah. New Yorker Elizabeth Ann Seton embraced the Catholic Church, much to the chagrin of her family, after attending Mass while visiting Italy. A young widow with five children, she shared Jesus by opening the first American Catholic parish school and establishing a religious community. How are you being invited to “stay” with Jesus? Have you found the Messiah? How do you share him with others? *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*

Saturday, January 5

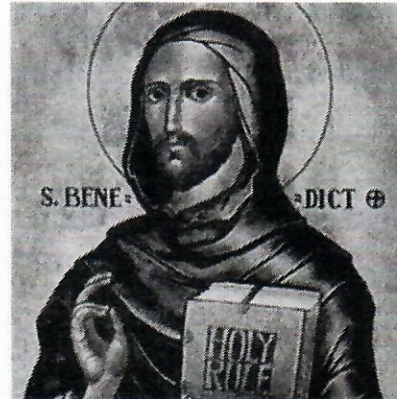
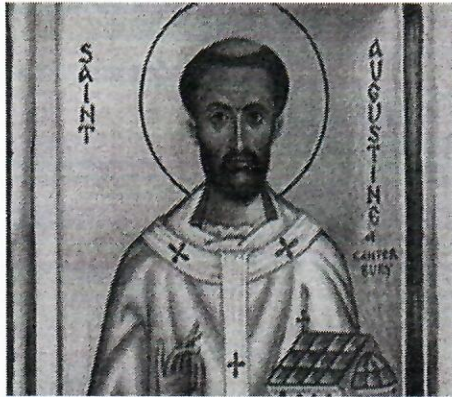
St. John Neumann, Bishop

Jesus continues to call Apostles in the Gospel, and still calls today. John Neumann heard that call and came to America as a missionary. Ordained a priest in New York, he ministered to immigrants in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. As the first American member of the Redemptorist order, he longed for a life of prayer in community. Instead, he was named bishop of Philadelphia, where he opened one hundred Catholic schools. He once took a vow never to waste a moment of time—quite an examination of conscience for us! *Today's Readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS SAINT AUGUSTINE & SAINT BENEDICT



Join us for two weeks as Bishop Barron traces the lives and contributions of Saint Augustine and Saint Benedict; two pivotal saints. Bishop Barron states that “Saint Augustine, the teacher, is possibly the best example of how faith in Christ changed a person.”

The Bishop further states, “that many would argue that Saint Benedict, the Monk, contributed more to saving western Christian culture than anyone else. Benedict founded the religious community that would, in time, preserve the best of the old and allow for the emergence of an authentic, Christian way of life.”

The first film on Saint Augustine with discussion following will be shown on Wednesday, January 16, at 7 p.m., and on Thursday, January 17, at 1:30 p.m., in the Church hall.

The second film on Saint Benedict with discussion following will be shown on Wednesday, January 23, at 7 p.m., and on Thursday, January 24, at 1:30 p.m., in the Church hall.

If you are interested in attending one or both of these films, please contact Cathy Smith at 382-8324, Ext. 305 or csmith@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ PARISH MINISTRIES & INFORMATION ✠

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Why not join the Choir? We have lots of fun, work hard, and singing is a great way to worship! You don't have to know how to read music to join – come on down!

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

The Contemporary Choir is always looking for new members. If you would like to sing with us or you can play an instrument, we would be overjoyed to have you join us! All ages and abilities are invited.

ALTAR SERVERS

We welcome any student who has celebrated their First Eucharist to become an **Altar Server**. Training typically begins with the new server being an "observer" until they are ready to function as servers. Parents – see Fr. Albert or call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.



READERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of new **READERS** for weekend and weekday Liturgies. Readers proclaim the readings and lead the Assembly in the General Intercessions on Sundays. A good heart and clear speaking voice are the only qualifications needed – all other training and materials are provided. Any adult or high school age student is welcome to become a **READER**. Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **READERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

GREETERS AND USHERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of **GREETERS** and **USHERS** to assist us at the weekend liturgies. **Greeters** are principally concerned with offering a welcome to all who come through the doors of our churches, distributing the weekly Bulletin and making guests feel part of our Parish. They also help designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. The ministry of **Usher** is also concerned with hospitality; helping with the collections at Mass, helping people who need handicap access to the church in Plaistow, and helping to designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. Couples or families are invited to serve together! Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **GREETERS** and **USHERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

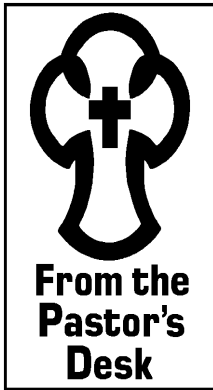
If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the parish office at 382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. Submit your prayer request to csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324, ext. 314.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JUDE COUNCIL #6617 SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The St. Jude Council is a vital part of your parish. We are a Catholic men's fraternal organization whose main purposes are charitable works and supporting our parish and community. We are involved with many activities during the year, including: A yearly Golf Tournament to raise money to help local families in need; Blood Drives; A Wedding Vows/Valentine's Day Meal & Dance; Food Baskets; Family Pool Party & BBQ. This is just a small sampling of the many activities of the St. Jude Council. We offer opportunities not just for the men, but for our members' entire family, including a Squires Club for young men between the ages of 10 and 18. The only requirement for membership is that you are a practicing Catholic who wants to join other men and their families of the parish to help those who are in need, support your parish, and enjoy the fellowship of other members and their families. If you would like to find out more about the Knights, please contact Bernie Gosselin at 603-642-4012.



WELCOME YULE!

With the Christmas holiday feast upon us, a word of greeting to parishioners, and of welcome to visitors to our Saint Luke Community

On behalf of the Pastoral Staff and the community of the Parish of Saint Luke the Evangelist, I extend to you and your families the blessings of the Christ who came to live among us, and who lives with us through the movement of the Holy Spirit, and who will come one day among us again.

Our Parish community is vibrant and growing as we gather together to celebrate Christmas. Even in the shadows of the continuing tragedies of the world; even in the shadows of personal heartbreak and economic worries, the Spirit of the Lord fills us with hope and faith in His loving and compassionate plan.

During your time with us, I pray you find in our liturgical worship the same welcoming spirit that has so long been the hallmark of our community. May the blessings of Christ, who is our light and our life, rest with you.



Some Reminders...

Tuesday, January 1 is the Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Θεοτόκος - the Mother of God. We will celebrate with a Vigil Liturgy on **Monday, December 31 at 4:00 PM** at Plaistow, and on **January 1 at 9 am** in Newton. Please note that there is no public evening prayer in Newton on January 1.

January 6 is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. We will follow our usual Sunday Liturgy schedule, and we will gather to sing Christmas Evening Prayer on **Sunday, January 6** at 6:00 PM in Newton.

The Christmas season will close this year with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on **January 13**. We will follow our usual Sunday Liturgy schedule, and we will gather to sing Christmas Evening Prayer on **Sunday, January 13** at 6:00 PM in Newton.

Happy & Blessed Christmas!

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gathering Ritual

Nativity of the Lord—Christmas • December 25, 2018 • Jesus is Born!

The Epiphany of the Lord • January 6, 2019 • Foreign Kings Come to See Jesus

Christmas Readings: Isaiah 9:1–6; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14

Epiphany Readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12

🎵 **Play and Sing:** “Night of Silence/Silent Night” from the *Venture/Visions Music CD*, CD-1, #8, Lyrics are available to download and print at gospelweeklies.com/lyrics.

Leader: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Holy God, you have called us to be holy as you are. Help us to follow the light Jesus shines in our lives and live out our journey to you in peace and love.

All: Let us walk in your light.

First Reading: Daniel, 7:13–14

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah 60:1–6) *Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. The wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of God.*

Gospel Reading

Leader: Let us prepare to listen to the Gospel. Loving God, open our ears to hear your call.

All: Open our eyes to see the Spirit in our lives.

Leader: Open our hearts to live the Gospel.

All: Open our hands to reach out to others like Jesus.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Matthew (2:1–12). *Use the Gospel in reader parts from Venture or Visions.*

Gospel Reflection

This Sunday’s readings picture people from all nations seeking out Jesus and show us that God sends Jesus for all people. In the First Reading, people from countries to the south, such as Midian and Sheba, travel to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship God. In the Responsorial Psalm, people come from the south and west to Jerusalem. In the Gospel, the Magi come from the east to seek Jesus in Bethlehem.

Who comes to our gathering from the south? Please stand. Who comes from the north? Please stand. From the east? Stand. From the west? Stand. Today, we celebrate how people came from all over the world, from every direction to believe in Jesus and walk in his light.

Like the Magi, we are all searchers and explorers. Like the Magi, we are searching for God in our lives. In our sessions, we will explore ways we are searching for God in our lives and the signs that may guide us along the way. *At this time, dismiss the children to their classes. Make sure that the catechists know the time to return to the large group for the concluding prayer and dismissal.*

Closing Prayer

Leader: We are gathered in Jesus’ name. We come to praise him.

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: When Jesus was born, visitors from far away came to worship him.

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: People all over the world believe in Jesus.

All: Come, let us adore him.

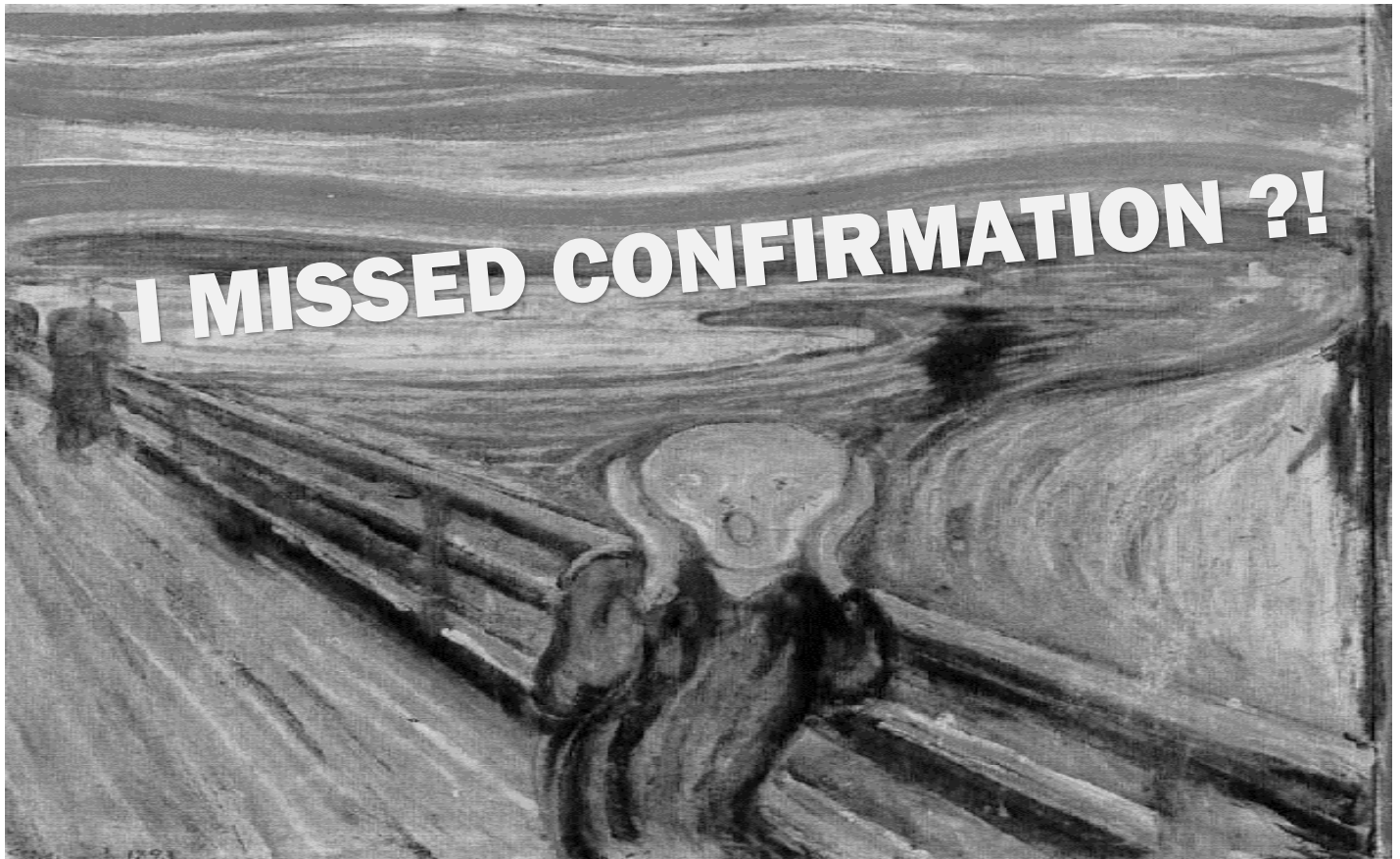
Leader: Like the shepherds and the Magi, we are invited to come to Jesus.

All: Come, let us adore him.

Leader: Our whole parish and Christians from all countries join together on this Epiphany of the Lord. We thank you, Jesus, for coming to be with us.

All: Come, let us adore him.

🎵 **Play and Sing:** “Christmas Star” from the *Venture/Visions Music CD*, CD-1, #9.



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.



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



Bringing Home the Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 30, 2018

The Holy Family's Example for All Families

By Mary Katharine Deeley

An old joke portrays an Irish couple with several children listening to the priest extolling the obedience of Jesus, the patience of Mary and Joseph, and exhorting his congregation to be just like them. When the Mass was ended, the couple turned to each other and one muttered to the other, "Sure to heaven, they were patient—they and their one." The joke highlights one struggle for many parents: keeping patience while children learn the lessons of life. It's a

job that may seem easier with one than with many.

Today, though, the Holy Family offers an example that applies to all families, whether large or small. Since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knew that one day he was going to have to follow his own path. They couldn't choose it for him; they could only prepare him as best they could. After they found him in the Temple and he told them, "I must be in my Father's house" (Luke 2:49), which can also be translated as "I must be about my Father's work", they knew he was growing into adulthood and that his time was coming. However, Jesus returned with them because it was not yet time for him to leave, and he remains obedient to them as he always is to his heavenly Father.

All of us who are parents know that we cannot dictate what our children can or should be. We can only help them discern what God has called them to be. In the meantime, we give them the best foundation we can give by praying with them, talking to them, and modeling our own response to God's call. +

*Mary and Joseph knew
they could only prepare Jesus
to follow his own path.*

Sunday Readings

Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14

Those who honor their father atone for sins; they store up riches who respect their mother.

Colossians 3:12–21

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

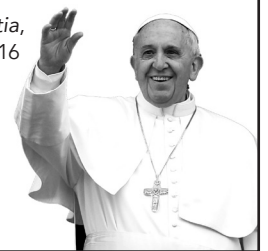
Luke 2:41–52

[Jesus said,] "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

A Word from Pope Francis

Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless.

—*Amoris Laetitia*,
March 19, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- As a parent, am I doing all I can to help my children discern God's calling?
- Instead of "helicoptering," do I give my children the space to discover their own paths?

How to Really Forgive

By Fr. William H. Shannon

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions (Matthew 6:14–15).



Every day I say a prayer at least seven times which, if I truly thought about its full meaning, would scare me half to death. I say the Lord's Prayer, in which I ask God to treat me the way I treat others. I suspect—though don't like to admit it—that I secretly hope that God will treat me much better than I treat others.

I'm not a nasty person; at least I don't think I am. But there are times when I treat others rather shabbily, times when I find it hard to forgive. Oh, I can go through the external motions of being gingerly polite, but rancor may still be in my heart. So let's admit it: It takes courage to say the Lord's Prayer.

In this text from Matthew that we are reflecting on, Jesus is blunt: If you forgive, God will forgive you. If you don't forgive, God won't forgive you. That's it. Forgive, or else.

What does Jesus mean by such strong words? First, let's be clear about what he doesn't mean. He doesn't mean that ours is a God of retaliation, a God who tells us, "I'll show you. If you don't forgive

I will get even. I won't forgive you either." The God Jesus reveals loves us and continues to love us, no matter what we do.

The point Jesus is making is more subtle. He is telling us that God, much as God might want to do so, cannot forgive us if we don't forgive others. He is telling us that forgiveness cannot be

received by an unforgiving heart.

Receptive Hearts

Outside my office window is a cement sidewalk. I think to myself: *How nice it would be if I could look out and, instead of seeing slabs of concrete, encounter a colorful group of lovely flowers growing in the middle of that space.* I might even ask a friend with a green thumb to plant such flowers there for me. Alas, as much as he might want to please me, it's impossible for my friend to do so. The concrete is too hard to receive the roots of the flowers.

Likewise, a hardened heart can be no more open to forgiveness than concrete is to flower seeds. We need to have our hardened hearts softened and opened by God's grace so that God's loving forgiveness can flow into us, then through us to others.

Gift of Tears

Do you remember the story of the Israelites in the desert protesting to Moses that they have no water? God ordered Moses to strike a huge rock with his staff and, behold, water gushed forth in abundance. Early Church writers often prayed for the gift of tears that would open their hearts and enable them to receive God's loving forgiveness.

In *The Roman Missal* there is a beautiful "Mass for the Forgiveness of Sins," known more colloquially as the "Mass for the Gift of Tears." The opening prayer is strikingly beautiful:

*Almighty and most gentle God,
who brought forth from the rock
a fountain of living water for your
thirsty people,
bring forth, we pray,
from the hardness of our heart,
tears of sorrow,
that we may lament our sins
and merit forgiveness from your mercy.*

The situation may well arise when this lovely prayer will prove to be helpful for any of us. +



*Lord, through your Word we
receive the knowledge and
wisdom of God. May your Spirit
lead me to your sacred Word
and guide me in my search for
knowledge and truth.*

—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 31–January 5

Monday, Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas: 1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

Tuesday, Solemnity of Mary: Nm 6:22–27 / Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

Wednesday, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen: 1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

Thursday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 2:29–3:6 / Jn 1:29–34

Friday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
1 Jn 3:7–10 / Jn 1:35–42

Saturday, St. John Neumann:
1 Jn 3:11–21 / Jn 1:43–51