



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 20, 2019
Second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

*I will lift up my eyes at the name of the
one who knows me well.*

Preparation Pescador de Hombres BB 503

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion The Supper Of The Lord BB 351
Our Blessing Cup BB 362

Recessional: All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name
BB 728

10:00 AM

Gathering: Glory And Praise To Our God BB 546

Dismissal: You Have Called Us BB 644

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 96)

*Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all
the nations.*

Preparation We Are Many Parts BB 583
Our Blessing Cup BB 362

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Supper Of The Lord BB 351
One Bread, One Body BB 339

Recessional: Sing A New Song BB 544



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!

January 6, 2019

Offertory	\$6,486.69
Property Management	\$1,792.00

January 13, 2019

Offertory	\$6,908.18
Seminarian Fund	\$1,914.25

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

January 13, 2019 Seminarian Fund

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.

ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, AND ALTAR SERVERS:

It is time to prepare Schedules for March through May. (This includes Ash Wednesday which is March 5. It also includes the Easter services from Palm Sunday, April 14, to Easter Sunday, April 21, for which Father will do sign ups after Masses.) If there are any times at which you cannot serve or when you would really like to serve please let me know by **February 11**. Contact me at 382-4760 or jmsul@myfairpoint.net. Please remember to include your ministry and Mass time in your message. Please let me know your availability and desires for the Easter services (even though there will be sign-ups at Church) in case I need to make phone calls. Thanks, as always, for your help. *Happy New Year!* *Jeanne*

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.

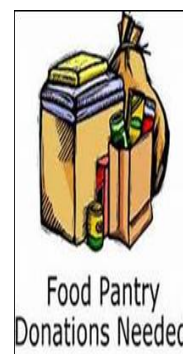
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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**.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, January 20
10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*

Monday, January 21
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 23
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER
7:00 PM Scripture Share - Saint Benedict *Plaistow*

Thursday, January 24
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
1:30 PM Scripture Share – Saint Benedict *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, January 26
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 27
10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Confirmation Meeting for Parents & Students (Grades 6, 7, 8) *Plaistow*
12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

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**



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 20 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, January 19 ~ Vigil / 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

4:00 PM June and Bud Wizst by Tina Bonnell and family
Plaistow

Sunday, January 20 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

8:00 AM Mary Douglas by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Murphy
Newton

10:00 AM Harry Yayellos by the Lancaster family
Plaistow

Monday, January 21 ~ Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
Newton

**Tuesday, January 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the Legal
Protection of the Unborn Children**

Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28

8:00 AM Bill Knowles (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

**Wednesday, January 23 ~ Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;
Marianne Cope, Virgin**

Heb 7:1-3; 15-17; Mk 3:1-6

6:30 PM Paul O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond
Plaistow

**Thursday, January 24 ~ Francis de Sales, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church**

Heb 7:25—8:6; Mk 3:7-12

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received
Newton

Friday, January 25 ~ Conversion of Paul, Apostle
Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18

No Mass

Saturday, January 26 ~ Timothy and Titus, Bishops
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:20-21 (Day)

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 14-21 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Vincent Dowd by his family
Plaistow

Sunday, January 27 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 14-21

8:00 AM Virginia Haynes by Jim and Mary Anne Downs
Newton

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



We welcome in our faith community
Caroline Michaela Conti
who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

William Knowles

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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

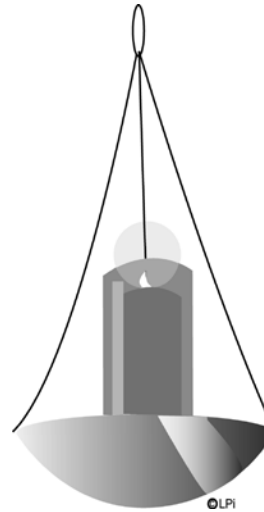
Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, February 3, 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. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching.

Please see Fr. Albert with questions.



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

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



ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Youth Ministry
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
youth@stluketheevangelist.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, the **Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 21, 2019.** The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 22.

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

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in Salem is hosting an Open House on **Sunday, January 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.** Questions? Contact Christine at clatino@sjrcs.com.

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

An invitation to young men, ages 14-18, who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like help hearing the Lord's call for their life, to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner on **February 8** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Joseph House, 279 Cartier Street, Manchester, NH. RSVP to rvinson@rcbm.org or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

CLOTHING DRIVE THANK YOU

What a success!!! Kimberly's 13th Annual Holiday Giveaway is now complete and was record-breaking! This year our team received 6,000 lbs. of clothing amongst boxes of food items, books, and toys. We were able to cater to 10 different donation sites. I am also proud to say that this year we had the highest turnout of volunteers. I am truly honored to be a small piece of this organization and overwhelmingly proud with the result of a community coming together for good. May God bless you all and we will see you next year! Kimberly Andrade

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 longstanding 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. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding when to travel to Church during winter storms.**

FROM THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

**Notice regarding change in status of the
Saint Benedict Center and the
"Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary"
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary School in
Richmond NH**

Following decisions reached by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome, the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, The Saint Benedict Center, The Saint Benedict Center, Inc., and the Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Richmond, NH, have been placed under strict canonical prohibitions and obligations. ***As a result, under no circumstances may Catholics receive the sacraments of the Church at the Saint Benedict Center or any of its locations, nor should they participate in any activity provided by this group or school, including their summer camp.*** Further details can be found on the diocesan website at: www.catholicnh.org/sbc.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617

GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY

1 HOUR A MONTH

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to come join the Knights, whose main purposes are charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join online by going to www.kofc.org/joinus. Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. Our annual St Patrick's Day Dinner is fast approaching on **March 16**. Volunteers are needed to help set up and meet brother Knights. The Council runs many other activities such as a semi-annual blood drive, providing meals for the food pantry on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality. We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Now is the best time to join the Knights. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan (603-770-4803), email him (dans49@comcast.net), or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html

WELCOME!!!!

**WOMEN AND MEN
FOR
BREAKFAST**



PRAYER - STOP

Please join us for a reflection and talk by Sr. Deborah, osf, on Saturday, February 9, at 9 a.m., with a snow date of February 16, in the Church Hall. We will come together for breakfast, a talk, and faith sharing. We will close our sharing by 12 noon. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail the office at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net by **Monday, February 4**, or call the office at 382-8324.

(There will be a free will offering that will be donated to The Little Sisters of Saint Francis.)

WINTER ORDINARY TIME

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, “The words ‘Ordinary Time’ in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is *ordinary*.” She was right.

The Ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Church document, *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, says: “Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.” (#43)

How do we celebrate “the mystery of Christ in all its aspects”? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ’s resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmastime and Lent, and the other in summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King. When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. We systematically read through the Gospels. The first readings from the first testament of the Bible were chosen for their relationship to the Gospel passages. The second readings come from the various letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ “in all its aspects” unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ’s life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

“What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.”

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 20, 2019 • Jesus Begins His Ministry at Cana
Sunday Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: What weddings have held special meaning to you?

Gospel Question: When have you experienced the Holy Spirit poured out in you or your Christian community?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

No dress, no wine, no problem with Jesus. How has Jesus supplied your lack in time of need?

Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: Think about your own sacramental journey. What sacraments are you preparing for or hope to receive?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus gather with his followers and celebrate today?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: What signs of God do you see around you?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus gather with his followers and celebrate today?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: When do you celebrate in your family?

Gospel Question: How is Jesus with us at Mass?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: How do you bring joy to others?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus show his love at the wedding feast?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: How do you help others?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus help others?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' performs his first miracle—turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. We learn that Jesus is completely obedient to his mother, Mary. We are reminded to listen to her words to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

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

In Church

The Church is the bride of Christ. Notice that when people go up the aisle to receive Holy Communion, they are like a bride going up the aisle to marry her beloved.

Question of the Week

How can you know what it is Jesus wants you to do?



Family Prayer

Jesus, help us to be obedient, just like you were to your mother. Help us to do what you teach us.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

En el Evangelio del domingo Jesús realiza su primer milagro—convierte el agua en vino—en una boda en Caná. Nos enteramos de que Jesús obedece plenamente a su madre, María. Se nos recuerda escuchar las palabras que María dijo a los sirvientes: "Hagan lo que él les diga".

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

En la Iglesia

La Iglesia es la esposa de Cristo. Nota que cuando la gente va por el pasillo para recibir la Sagrada Comunión, es como una novia que va por el pasillo para casarse con su amado.

Pregunta de la semana

¿Cómo puedes saber qué es lo que Jesús quiere que hagas?



Oración en familia

Jesús, ayúdanos a ser obedientes, como tú lo fuiste con tu madre. Ayúdanos a hacer lo que nos enseñas.



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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 20, 2019

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the legends of the saints in Ireland, it is said that St. Bridget performed a miracle similar to the one Jesus did at Cana. When three beggars came to the monastery, there was nothing to give them to drink. Bridget invited them in anyway and, seeing only the water used for washing clothes, she prayed to God. The wash water turned into beer, which she served to the guests.

While the account of the wedding feast is not a legend, the similarity

between the two stories highlights the way God works in ordinary things (and sometimes in ordinary people) to make them extraordinary. Jesus turns the water at an everyday wedding into wine of such abundance that it reminds us of Isaiah's vision of the Lord's banquet when all will feast at the table. God worked through Bridget, an ordinary person, to turn the water used for washing clothes into beer to satisfy the thirst of three beggars. Though seemingly without, they had as much as they needed, and the generosity was remembered.

Even now, God takes what is mundane and uses it to show forth his glory and satisfy his people. John's Gospel highlights this activity as the first of the signs that Jesus performed. The legend of Bridget and the stories of those who reflect and share the grace of God in their day-to-day living strengthen our faith and hope that God is active still in the world and will bring us all to glory one day. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord.

John 2:1-11

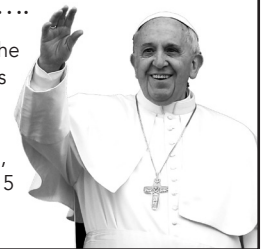
"Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

***God worked through Bridget
to turn wash water into beer
and satisfy the thirst
of three beggars.***

A Word from Pope Francis

The common home of all men and women must continue to rise on the foundations of a right understanding of universal fraternity and respect for the sacredness of every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn, the unemployed, the abandoned....

—Address to the
United Nations
General
Assembly,
September 25,
2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Can I think of examples of God working through ordinary people or things to make the extraordinary happen?
- With God's help, how can an ordinary person like me become an extraordinary force for good?

Struggling with Evil

By Richard Rohr, OFM

One of the most difficult biblical themes to explore is how we deal with evil. There is something in our psychology that makes it hard to see, hear, or face evil realistically.

Throughout history, we have viewed the problem of evil similarly: We are forever looking for the enemy and finding him “out there.” Someone else or some other group is almost always the problem, so we feel justified in blaming others. This enables us to live hatefully, even violently, and without guilt. “The hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God,” says Jesus (John 16:2).

Starting with Cain and Abel, history is an account of who killed whom and who “deserves” to be killed. So much of history is searching for a suitable enemy. In simple terms, he hit me, so I’m free to hit him back. Two millennia after Jesus became history’s forgiving victim we continue to miss his message!

That same dynamic is evident in Leviticus 16, where we read about the scapegoat ritual. On the Day of Atonement, a goat was brought to the Holy of Holies where the priest would lay hands on the animal. All of the sins and failures of the people were ceremoniously laid on the goat, and



they would drive the goat into the desert. Through that ingenious liturgical rite the people distanced themselves from sins by finding an easy target on which to project them. Liturgically, it worked! In fact, it works so well we’ve never stopped creating scapegoats.

Playing Mind Games

We convince ourselves that we’re righteous: Our hatred is moral because the stakes are so high when our country, people, way of life, or religious beliefs are under siege. Finding and dealing with evil “out there” holds us together as a nation as we define ourselves by what we are against.

Jesus shows us another way. Many of his healings are really efforts to reintegrate persons into the community. There’s no room for scapegoating in his teaching. He doesn’t expel sinners but forgives them. He even commands that we love our enemies. There’s no “contaminating element” to expel in Jesus’ teaching. Forgiveness and reconciliation are the opposite of scapegoating, punishing, and excluding the supposed enemy. The great conversion occurs when we see that we’re our own worst enemies.

Saint Paul is another model. He’s a

converted persecutor and accuser who once gloried in his identity as a hater of Christians. No one was “holier” than Saul, the dutiful Pharisee, until the scales fell from his eyes on the road to Damascus. There, for the first time, he recognized that he had become hate in the name of love, evil in the name of goodness.

Seeing with New Eyes

Few of us are likely to see ourselves in the extremes of St. Paul, but through God’s grace, we too can begin to see with new eyes. We can choose the path of transformation that Jesus call us to, rather than take the more comfortable outlet of projecting evil onto others.

Jesus calls us to be reconcilers: to deal with evil by holding it with grace rather than hating it; to be people who cannot hate anymore; to refuse to allow ourselves to be pulled onto one side of every dilemma.

The gospel is destabilizing. It calls us to nonviolence and wisdom. It calls us to see God in every circumstance and person—perhaps most of all in those we’re tempted to reject, fear, or attack. +

PRAYER

Lord, send your Spirit and empower me to use my gifts and talents for the common good of all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 21-26

Monday, St. Agnes:
Heb 5:1–10 / Mk 2:18–22


Tuesday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
Heb 6:10–20 / Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 7:1–3, 15–17 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, St. Francis de Sales:
Heb 7:25—8:6 / Mk 3:7–12

Friday, Conversion of St. Paul:
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18

Saturday, Sts. Timothy and Titus:
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 3:20–21

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 20, 2019

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