



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 17, 2019
Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 523

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 323
Whatsoever You Do BB 622

Recessional: We Are The Light Of The World BB 597

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Dismissal: You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

*O God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for
you. Your love is finer than life.*

Preparation Blest Are They BB 629
Christ Be Our Light BB 596

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion That There May Be Bread BB 347
Whatsoever You Do BB 622

Recessional: Lead Me, Lord BB 630



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!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
FEBRUARY 10 and 17, 2019
WILL APPEAR IN THE FEBRUARY 24 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

February 17, 2019	Fuel
February 24, 2019	No Second Collection
March 3, 2019	Property Management
March 6, 2019	Aid To Churches in Central & Eastern Europe and Africa

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 are 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.

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.

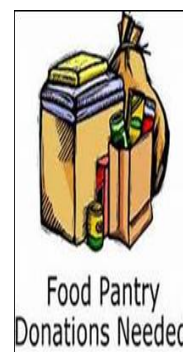
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, February 17

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Confirmation Session *Plaistow*

Monday, February 18

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, February 19

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, February 20

**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, February 21

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
 9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
 8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, February 23

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

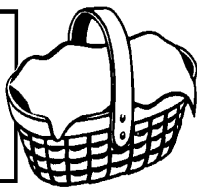
Sunday, February 24

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM **NO** Confirmation Session *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

An invitation to **men, ages 25+** 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 22** 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.

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, February 16 ~ Vigil / 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

4:00 PM Rosemary Duhamel by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, February 17~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

8:00 AM Dolly Green and Beryl Wright
by the Madore family
Newton

10:00 AM Michael Delcore by his wife Joan and family
Plaistow

Monday, February 18 ~ Weekday

Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

8:00 AM Joe Thompson (1st Anniversary)
by his wife Robin and family
Newton

Tuesday, February 19 ~ Weekday

Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Favors Received
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 20 ~ Weekday

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26

6:30 PM Bill Knowles by his wife Marjorie and family
Plaistow

Thursday, February 21 ~ Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33

8:00 AM Bernie Gosselin (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, February 22 ~ The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

No Mass

Saturday, February 23 ~ Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13 (Day)

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Rosemary Duhamel by Claire & Andrew Slauter
Plaistow

Sunday, February 24 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

8:00 AM David Coddling by the Knights of Columbus
Newton

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

PROJECT RACHEL

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopeafterabortion.org.

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, March 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.

HUNDREDFOLD WORKSHOP

The Diocese of Manchester is seeking to equip Catholic laity to form vibrant Vocation Ministries that promote vocations to marriage, priesthood, and consecrated life in parishes. On **March 2, 2019** at Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish in Bedford, Rhonda Gruenewald, the author of *Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry* will present a workshop for the Diocese of Manchester. Father Albert invites any Parishioner wishing to attend the workshop to contact him at (603) 382-8324 or at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net. There is no cost to attend this workshop. Lunch will be provided. **Deadline to register is February 22, 2019.** Snow Date for the workshop is Saturday, March 9.



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** ✠

HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, March 3 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

LIVING THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Lady of Hope House Of Prayer

March 9, 2019 ~ 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

You are invited to a special day of exploration into this beloved prayer. On this journey, we will excavate the expanded meanings that emerge when we examine the prayer through the language Jesus spoke, Aramaic. You may want to bring a journal to record the inner treasures you discover on this sacred journey. Cost is \$55.00.

Registration deadline is February 23, 2019. Please contact Srs. Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, p.m. at 603-878-2346 or olhope1@yahoo.com.

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Manchester are currently registering students for the 2019-2020 academic year. Parishioners who are planning to register at Catholic Schools should contact the school directly for information. A subsidized tuition rate is available for qualified parishioners for elementary and middle schools. In order to be eligible for the tuition subsidy, a family must be (a) registered in a Parish for at least a year prior to the school year; (b) be contributing members of the Parish; and (c) be involved in the Parish Community. Each school has information about this reduced rate; you can also contact the Parish Office for more information.

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 to travel to Church during winter storms.**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of Presidents' Day, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 18.** The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 19. Our regular office 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.**

**ANNUAL VITA NOVA
WOMEN'S RETREAT**

"Make Me A New Creation"

March 8-10, 2019

Do you feel worn out, tired, or overwhelmed? Come and listen to how the Lord wants to make you a new creation...body, mind, and spirit.

Held at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH, the Retreat, led by Fr. Marcel Martel, begins on Friday evening and concludes with Sunday lunch.

Register at: www.vitanova.org.



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

**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 join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go 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. 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. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net, or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html

Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord.

What to do?

Today we continue to welcome sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent.

We continue to pray together as our 2019 Lenten Journey gets underway. Ask for the Spirit’s guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish’s Lenten Journey be blessed.



Join a small group! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

Take the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form on the back and dropping it in the collection basket next week, drop it off at the parish office, or call the Parish Offices at 382-8324.

**FAMILY @ TEEN DOWNLOADS:
www.disciplesonthejourney.org**

**Groups begin meeting the week of
March 3**

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(March 6 – April 10)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(March 7 – April 11)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF MARCH 3**

**GROUPS WILL MEET IN ROOM 8 IN THE
CHURCH HALL**

(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Prfaum
**Gospel
Weeklies**
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 17, 2019

Jesus Speaks About Happiness (The Beatitudes)

Sunday Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: Who around us do we consider blessed?

Gospel Question: Who does Jesus consider blessed?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Try your hand at writing beatitudes for the rich, the middle class, for lawyers or teachers or parents or whatever social group best describes you. Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: How has God blessed you?

Gospel Question: How can you bless people who are poor, hungry, or sad?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: What is a fair share? Who do you know who doesn't have a fair share?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus look at people who are poor?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What makes you happy?

Gospel Question: Who does God bless?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What makes you happy?

Gospel Question: How do you bring happiness to others?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: How do you show love to people in your family and community?

Gospel Question: What does Jesus teach about us about loving others?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

Blessed are those who mourn, blessed are you who are persecuted... Jesus' words in Sunday's Gospel must have been confusing to those listening! These don't sound like blessings at first, but in each circumstance, we learn to rely fully on God. This puts things in a new perspective.

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

In Church

Pray for anyone who might be sad, sick, injured, or lonely.

Question of the Week

How is living an authentic Catholic life—the way Jesus wants us to live—different from the way the world often tells us to live?

Family Prayer

Lord, help us to desire things that are holy and good. Help us to resist valuing things only because our culture tells us they are important.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

Dichosos los que lloran, dichosos los que son perseguidos... ¡Las palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio del domingo deben haber sido confusas para los que las escuchaban! No suenan como una bendición al principio, pero en cada circunstancia, aprendemos a confiar plenamente en Dios. Esto pone las cosas en una perspectiva nueva.

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

En la Iglesia

Reza por todos los que están tristes, enfermos, heridos o solos.

Pregunta de la semana

¿En qué se diferencia vivir una vida católica auténtica—la manera en que Jesús quiere que vivamos—de la manera que el mundo a menudo nos dice que hay que vivir?

Oración en familia

Señor, ayúdanos a desear cosas santas y buenas. Señor, ayúdanos a que rechacemos valorar las cosas solo porque nuestra cultura nos dice que son importantes.



Why don't you think about it too?

**Parish Giving is a simple,
secure and convenient way to
manage your stewardship
without weekly envelopes and
without worries.**

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- 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.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.





Bringing Home the Word +

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 17, 2019

God's Nurturing Messengers

By Dan Finucane

Flower bulbs have an “up” end and a “down” end. It matters how you plant them. I didn't know that when I was a teenager. If you plant bulbs pointing up, they grow and blossom. If you plant them pointing down, they're in trouble. If you plant them more or less at random, there could be gaps in the flower bed.

I learned this one spring when our parish got a new pastor. He hired a few of us from the parish. I was the flower planter. He didn't select me for this job because of my knowledge of flowers. He picked me because he wanted to hire young parishioners to give us a little

spending money.

Later that spring, when the flowers starting blooming, some of mine didn't. Our new pastor wasn't upset. He thought it was funny. He thought I could learn a little about planting bulbs...but I learned a whole lot more from this man who knew people have to grow into the job of being human. People might start going in the wrong direction, but they can be turned around with gentleness. They might even blossom.

The Bible is full of plant images. Today Jeremiah describes how a shrub in the desert doesn't know when its next drink will come. He describes those who are really blessed—the ones who are planted by a stream.

The Scriptures aren't really trying to give us information about plants. (I haven't found anything helpful there about bulbs.) But some basic growing points are clear. God isn't too keen on tearing up the garden. God plants near living streams. God teaches us to *trust* by an amazing, surprising strategy. God gives us messengers who *trust us*, guide us, nurture us—give us room to grow. +

*People might start going
in the wrong direction,
but they can be turned
around with gentleness.*

A Word from Pope Francis

No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love. Did not Jesus say: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”?

—Day of prayer for vocations,
May 11, 2014



Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 17:5–8

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD...They are like a tree planted beside the waters.

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16–20

Now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Luke 6:17, 20–26

And raising his eyes toward his disciples [Jesus] said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Am I available to mentor others, especially a young person who is heading in the wrong direction?
- Am I grateful towards those who mentor or nurture me?

The Beatitudes' Promises



Who are the happy, fortunate, blessed people? What is the source of happiness?

One of the most important, paradoxical sections in Scripture is the vision of happiness Jesus gives in his Sermon on the Mount. In the Gospels of Matthew (5:3–10) and Luke (6:20–26), Jesus proclaims what blessedness is and makes promises to those who follow his proclamation. The blessed, happy, and fortunate, he tells us, are the poor in spirit, those who mourn and are merciful, those who seek righteousness and peace, the pure in heart, and the persecuted. The promise awaiting them is God's kingdom!

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. In our more honest moments, we recognize our neediness, intellectual limitations, spiritual inadequacies, and moral failures.

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

In our helplessness, we turn to God. Our response of gratitude, itself a grace, means the kingdom of heaven is ours.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Life's journey involves having our hearts broken repeatedly. Sometimes this is due to our own sin, sometimes because of the cruelty of others. Jesus reminds us that the truth sets us free. Those who are honest about their sorrows and sins will gain his consolation.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. These meek individuals strive to emulate Jesus in obedience, and submit to whatever is sent their way. The meek know that God is ultimately in control, and they are about doing his divine will. Peace will be their everlasting inheritance.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. We all have longings: for meaning, intimacy, and depth. But one of the deepest longing is for justice. Only when rights are protected and promoted, when we fulfill our obligations to God and to others, will this hunger and thirst be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. If we give mercy, we shall get mercy. God has been merciful to us, and we should pass this gift to others. A merciless Christian is a contradiction in terms. Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. Mercy is the presence of Jesus in a wounded, fractured world.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for

they will see God. The pure of heart are those who are undefiled by attitudes that distance us from God. We know our seeing is dependent upon the condition of our hearts. If pure, we shall see the glory of God and our own as well as others' dignity.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. God's peace is the rightness of relationships. Peace embraces four satellites: truth, charity, freedom, and justice. Peacemakers are instruments of all four of these graces. When that work is done well, they know themselves to be blessed because they are truly children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. This beatitude exemplifies Jesus' radical message: that persecution and happiness go together. The true Christian longs to share fully in the life of Jesus: his life, suffering, death, and resurrection. This is the gateway into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus' mission was to take people from sin and death into the happiness of heaven. The beatitudes describe his vision, charting the path to make that journey. In the end, it is all the work of the Holy Spirit. +



*Lord, you never forget us;
you answer all our needs.
Keep me from being anxious
about many things.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 18–23

Monday, Weekday:

Gn 4:1–15, 25 / Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday, Weekday:

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10 / Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22 / Mk 8:22–26

Thursday, Weekday:

Gn 9:1–13 / Mk 8:27–33

Friday, Chair of St. Peter:

1 Pt 5:1–4 / Mt 16:13–19

Saturday, St. Polycarp:

Heb 11:1–7 / Mk 9:2–13