



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 24, 2019
Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
BB 476

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Christians, Let Us Love One Another
BB 475

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Ubi Caritas BB 327
Bread Of Life BB 369

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
BB 382

10:00 AM

Gathering: Table Of Plenty BB 310

Dismissal: You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

The Lord is kind and merciful. (2x)

Preparation Love Goes On BB 477
Where Love Is Found BB 668

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Be Not Afraid BB 431
I Am The Bread Of Life BB 363

Recessional: City Of God BB 385



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!

February 10, 2019

Offertory \$7,237.92
Catholic Schools \$1,606.25

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
FEBRUARY 17, 2019
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S 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 24, 2019 No Second Collection
March 3, 2019 Property Management

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.

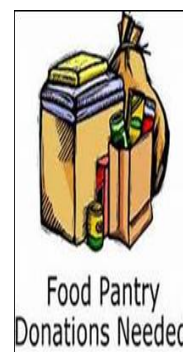
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, February 24

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

Wednesday, February 27
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, February 28

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

Saturday, March 2

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, March 3
PREPARE CHURCHES FOR LENT
AFTER 8:00 AND 10:00 AM LITURGIES

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Confirmation Session	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>



In Loving Memory

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Barbara Tremblay
Sister Mildred Malone
Charles Cooper

**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, March 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 23 ~ Vigil / 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38
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 Coddington by the Knights of Columbus
Newton
10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

Monday, February 25 ~ Weekday
Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
8:00 AM Bernie Gosselin by Grace Bukowski
Newton

Tuesday, February 26 ~ Weekday
Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
8:00 AM Rosemary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 27 ~ Weekday
Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40
6:30 PM Raymond and Anna Lynch and son Vincent
 by their family
Plaistow

Thursday, February 28 ~ Weekday
Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50
8:00 AM Richard Reilly by the Stanley family
Newton

Friday, March 1 ~ Weekday
Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12
No Mass

Saturday, March 2 ~ Weekday
Sir 17:1-5; Mk 10:13-16 (Day)
Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Antonia and Stanley Zakiewicz
 by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, March 3 ~ Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45
8:00 AM Betty and Mary Nappi by the Stanley family
Newton
10:00 AM Buddy Kleckner by the Pappas family
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!

**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.

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 when to travel to Church during winter storms.**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
IRISH BOILED DINNER**

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an Irish Boiled Dinner on **Saturday, March 16 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM** in the Parish Center. The funds raised from the meal will be used by the Knights to support our Food Pantry. Last year the Knights donated over \$4,200 in cash plus food baskets to our Food Pantry.

For entertainment, there will be an Irish Step Dancing exhibition put on by Murray Academy of Irish Dance. Last year they travelled to Ireland to dance and won a world championship. They are absolutely outstanding and very enjoyable to watch.

The boiled dinner will consist of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, turnips, desserts, and refreshments. Hot dogs will be available for the kids. There will be several raffles for Irish theme baskets, gift items and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for kids, with a \$30 maximum per family. There will also be meals available for take-out.

Tickets will go on sale after Mass on the weekends of March 2 and March 9. Tickets will also be available at the door. **If you would like to donate a gift or a theme basket, please contact Stephanie Meader 603-974-2281.** If you have any questions or would like to help with the event, please contact Dave Meader at 603-974-3162 (d.meader@comcast.net), Ed Wencis at 603-362-5783, or Roland Richardson at 443-848-3328.

**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. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

Lenten Journey is about SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP! We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. **On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form by Monday, February 5th at the office, or call the office at 382-8324.**

Meetings begin next week! 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.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets
at the first meeting.**

Groups begin meeting NEXT WEEK!

Wednesday, March 6, after the 6:30 p.m. Mass in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.

Thursday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.

FAMILY AND TEEN DOWNLOADS: www.disciplesonthejourney.org

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, March 6!

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

Gospel Weeklies
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 24, 2019 • Jesus Says, "Love Your Enemies"
Sunday Readings: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 16:45-49; Luke 6:27-38

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: To love our enemies is the heart of Jesus' teaching. What if we practiced making friends of our enemies?

Gospel Question: How do Jesus' teachings not to judge or condemn, but to pardon and give generously work for you?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Adults

How does Jesus' teaching to love our enemies challenge you?

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: When do you need to ask for forgiveness?

Gospel Question: How does Jesus say we should treat people who offend us?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: How do you respond to hatred around you?

Gospel Question: Which of Jesus' teachings do you think is hardest to do and why?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What should we do if someone calls us a hurtful name?

Gospel Question: What is your favorite Jesus saying?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What does it mean to say, "I am sorry," to another person?

Gospel Question: What does Jesus teach us about forgiveness?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: What does it mean to say, "I forgive you?"

Gospel Question: What does Jesus teach us about forgiveness?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us to be kind even to those who are not kind to us. This is very difficult, but if we want to be like Jesus, we need to love our enemies and those who would hurt us. Jesus loved everyone, even those who crucified him.

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

In Church

When we offer the Sign of Peace at Mass, we are not just greeting those seated near us. By this gesture, we say that we believe true peace is a gift of Christ's Death and Resurrection and that we desire reconciliation with Christ and the community.

Family Prayer

Lord, we find it hard to be kind when someone is not kind to us. Help us to see others as you do, so that we will not be tempted to judge them or be unkind.

Question of the Week

Do you need to ask forgiveness from God or another person? What is holding you back from doing so?

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

En el Evangelio del domingo, Jesús nos recuerda que seamos amables incluso con los que no lo son con nosotros. Esto es muy difícil, pero si queremos ser como Jesús, tenemos que amar a nuestros enemigos y a quienes nos podrían lastimar. Jesús amó a todos, incluso a los que lo crucificaron.

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

En la Iglesia

Cuando ofrecemos el Saludo de la paz en la Misa no solo saludamos a los que están sentados cerca de nosotros. Con este gesto, decimos que creemos que la verdadera paz es un regalo de la Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo y que deseamos la reconciliación con Cristo y la comunidad.

Oración en familia

Señor, nos resulta difícil ser amables cuando alguien no lo es con nosotros. Ayúdanos a ver a los demás como tú los ves para que no estemos tentados a juzgarlos o a no ser amables.

Pregunta de la semana

¿Necesitas pedir perdón a Dios u a otra persona? ¿Qué te impide hacerlo?

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY LUNCHEON

Our Parish has formed two groups of volunteers who help in providing lunch following a Funeral Liturgy.

Bereavement Ministry Volunteers contribute food items, and other helpers get things ready, serve, and clean up when everyone goes on their way.

We all work as a team, so helpers will be called on to serve in a particular sequence that spreads out the work and time commitment. This is an ideal ministry for retirees or stay-at-home Moms or Dads who have kids at school. Also, it is an opportunity for anyone, if they are able, to bring food items the night before or early in the morning on the day of the funeral on their way to work.

To assist grieving families, when requested (and based on hall availability) we will provide a luncheon after the funeral service. A standard menu has been developed to simplify this operation. Although there will be no formal charge for this service, families who are able are encouraged to make a donation.

If you are interested, and not already signed up in helping with this ministry, please complete the form below and put it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office. Any questions, please contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324.

Name: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
E-mail _____

I would like to assist with memorial meals on a rotating basis: **(please circle all that apply)**

Make phone calls to volunteers

Food Donations:

Salads (garden, potato, cole slaw, or pasta)

Desserts (bar cookies, cakes, brownies)

Finger Roll Sandwiches (2 doz.) (tuna, egg, chicken, or ham)

Soup (winter only)

Serving/Clean up:

Food Serving (at meal)

Clean up (hall & kitchen)



Bringing Home the Word

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 24, 2019

Learning to Love Our Enemy

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you....” Oh no! This impossible gospel again! Love your enemies? Turn the other cheek? If someone takes my cloak, I don’t give him my tunic. I look for a way to get it back and sue for damages besides.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Jesus didn’t just preach. He acted as he wants us to act and tells us, “Do as I do.” “Love one another as I have loved you,” he said. At the Last Supper after he washed his disciples’ feet, he said, “I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

But love my enemies?

Well, OK, who is my enemy? For

some it is the enemy of our nation. For others it is our current president and his administration, whoever it happens to be. For some the enemy is those who criticize the Church. For others it is the Church’s leadership. For some the enemy is a boss or former boss. For some it’s black people or white people, rich people or poor people, refugees who are trying to get into our country or citizens who are trying to keep them out. For some the enemy is as close to home as a parent who was abusive, a brother or sister, a daughter-in-law or son-in-law, an ex-spouse.

We tend to think *our* enemy is the exception; that *our* reason for hating is reasonable and not what Jesus was talking about. Find me the Gospel passage that offers the exception. I’d really like to read it and let myself off the hook.

If we have a hatred that’s gnawing at us, perhaps this points the way to our Lenten discipline. If we can’t love our enemies, we can pray for the grace to do so. If we can’t pray to love our enemies, we can pray for the desire to do so. If we can’t pray for the desire to love them, we can at least pray for the desire for the desire. Let’s start on Ash Wednesday. +

***We tend to think that
our enemy is the exception.***

A Word from Pope Francis

The cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: “Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you.”

—World Youth Day, July 26, 2013



Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

The LORD repays everyone’s righteousness and faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 15:45–49

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Luke 6:27–38

[Jesus said,] “Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I look for the good in others, including those I dislike?
- Can I pray for the grace to understand—and even love—my enemies?

Battling Addiction— Surrendering to God's Grace



By Paul M. Smith

"I don't belong here!" kept repeating in my impaired brain as I sat propped against the concrete wall. My head was pounding, my stomach churning. *"I'm the father of three, a community leader, a radio and television personality. How could this happen again?"*

The evening was a blur except for the flashing lights in my rearview mirror, prompting a familiar sinking feeling. There was no point in taking the field sobriety test. I could barely stand, much less walk a straight line. I vaguely remember verbally abusing the arresting officer and faking a heart attack in an attempt to avoid a Breathalyzer test. No one was fooled. My blood-alcohol content was well over the legal limit.

Now, sitting in the drunk tank, surrounded by a dozen men, some vomiting, others lying in their urine, I wondered:

"How could I have fallen this low again?"

I hadn't gone more than a day or two in my adult life without drinking or using drugs, usually both. I was fourteen when I took my first drink, whiskey straight from the bottle. I drank the whole thing and passed out.

As a teenager, drinking helped me fit in. It made me feel more comfortable around people. I could talk to girls. I even thought I could dance. (I now know that I can't!) Later there came two divorces, multiple arrests, the threat of losing good jobs, and the alienation of my children. My response was to simply drink and drug more. Finally, yet another humiliating arrest convinced me of my powerlessness. It was only then that the grace of God could enter me to expel my obsession for self-destructive drinking.

My conversion was gradual. I had abandoned my strict Catholic upbringing in favor of the lure of the world. Having no idea how to live on life's terms and with nothing to numb the pain, I became more miserable with each passing day. I visited recovery groups but rebelled against joining a twelve-step program. They talked of a Higher Power and, though I believed in God, I had kept him out of my life.

Then I met the man who would become my spiritual guide. A recovering alcoholic himself, this missionary priest showed me by gentle example his love for Jesus and the Church. I gradually became willing to ask for help and to embrace the support community that is the backbone

of recovery. I had to break my natural tendency towards isolation in order to join in the group.

I returned to church, becoming active in my parish. I was encouraged to pray and make a fearless examination of conscience, followed by an honest confession in the sacrament of reconciliation. I humbly received the Body and Blood of Christ. Through receiving his Precious Blood for this final time, I was freed from my past sins, became willing to make amends, and able to become the man I was created to be. The Catholic formation of my youth has become a firm foundation for continued spiritual growth.

Life is still filled with daily challenges, hardship, and pain. I'm still an addict, but my "addiction" today is to God's grace. Through faith, there is joy, hope, and love-sustaining substitutes for chemical escape.

I'm grateful that the obsession to drink and drug has been lifted by God's grace. As I face other destructive patterns in my daily walk, I'm reminded of the words of St. Paul as he struggled with his "thorn ... in the flesh." The Lord spoke to him saying, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). +

PRAYER

Lord, you command me to love my neighbor. May your love dispel the hatred and resentment in my heart so that I may love all people unconditionally.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 25–March 2

Monday, Weekday:

Sir 1:1–10 / Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday, Weekday:

Sir 2:1–11 / Mt 9:30–37

Wednesday, Weekday:

Sir 4:11–19 / Mk 9:38–40

Thursday, Weekday:


Sir 5:1–8 / Mk 9:41–50

Friday, Weekday:

Sir 6:5–17 / Mk 10:1–12

Saturday, Weekday:

Sir 17:1–15 / Mk 10:13–16

Bringing Home
the Word 
February 24, 2019

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