



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, May 19, 2019
Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Sing With All The Saints In Glory
BB 611

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Let the
heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia!
Alleluia!*

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the
waters, you have sung in the rush of
wind and flame; and in your love,
you have called us sons and
daughters, make us people of the
water and your name.*

Preparation Love Divine, All Loves Excelling BB 473

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion Bread For The World BB 344
I Am The Living Bread BB 356

Recessional: Sing, O Sing BB 551

10:00 AM

Gathering: All The Ends Of The Earth BB 549

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia!
Let the heavens and earth rejoice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Confirmation Rite: Send Us Your Spirit BB 453
Here I Am, Lord BB 378

Preparation We Have Been Told BB 497
Behold The Lamb BB 338

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion Our Blessing Cup BB 362
I Will Praise Your Name BB 813

Recessional: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name BB 193

✠ 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!

May 12, 2019

Offertory

\$6,378.83

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

May 19, 2019	Fuel
May 26, 2019	Catholic Communications
May 30, 2019	Ascension
June 2, 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 27, 2019**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 28.



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

On **Thursday, May 30**, we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, which is a holy day of obligation. Liturgies will be celebrated at **6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 29 in Plaistow** and at **8:00 AM on Thursday, May 30 in Newton**.

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

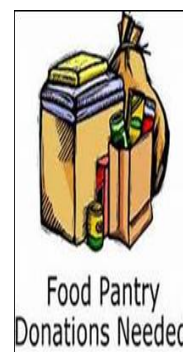


**PENTECOST IS UPON US!
SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT!
WEAR RED TO CHURCH
ON THE WEEKEND OF
JUNE 8-9**

**Pentecost Evening Prayer and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Holy Angels Church
Sunday, June 9 at 6:00 PM
Pentecost Dessert Reception follows
at 6:30 PM in the parish hall**

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 SPRING...

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, May 19
10:00 AM Confirmation *Plaistow*

Tuesday, May 21
6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, May 22
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, May 23
8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

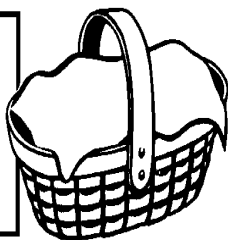
Saturday, May 25
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!!!

Miraculous Mission
Jesus Saves The World
June 24 through 28, 2019
9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Children won't want to miss out! They will meet new friends, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. To register, call Joyce Szczapa at 382-8324, ext. 303 or take a registration form from the back of the church. Cost is \$50 for one child, \$75 for two children, and \$85 for three children.

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, June 19 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, May 18 ~ Vigil / Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

4:00 PM Martin Feuer by Eleanor Feuer and family
Plaistow

Sunday, May 19 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

8:00 AM David Coddling by St. Vincent de Paul Society
Newton

10:00 AM Kyle DiPerri by his family
Plaistow

Monday, May 20 ~ Bernadine of Siena, Priest
Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

8:00 AM Robert Cooper by his family
Newton

Tuesday, May 21 ~ Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a

8:00 AM William McGuinness by the Doody family
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 22 ~ Rita of Cascia, Religious
Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

6:30 PM Barbara Tremblay by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, May 23 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

8:00 AM Barbara Devanna (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, May 24 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

No Mass

Saturday, May 25 ~ Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church;

Gregory VII, Pope;

Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin

Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21 (Day)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Martin Feuer by Eleanor Feuer and family
Plaistow

Sunday, May 26 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

8:00 AM Mildred Healey by her family
Newton

10:00 AM Veronica Webster (11th Anniversary)
 by her daughters
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 ✧

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

"Live In God's Time"

August 23-25, 2019

Notre Dame Spirituality Center, Alfred, ME

Young adult Catholics, ages 21-25, are invited to this retreat. For more information, email mjsilvia@rcbm.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, June 2, 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.

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Discernment Retreat

June 7-9, 2019

This is a retreat for single men ages 18 to 50! Spend a weekend with other men from the Diocese of Manchester who are discerning the Lord's will for their lives. Fr. Matthew Mason and the vocations team will lead a retreat on the shores of beautiful Otter Lake. Take time to pray, to learn, and to listen for the Lord's will for your life.

The retreat will be held at the Barbara Harris Retreat Center in Greenfield, NH on the weekend of **June 7-9, 2019**. Cost is \$50.

For more information, or to register, please visit www.liveinblackandwhite.com or contact Fr. Matthew Mason at 603-663-0196 or mmason@rcbm.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

June 8-9, 2019

Medway, MA

For more information, visit <https://www.mema.org/>.

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** ✠

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, June 1, 2019

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

St. Michael Parish, Exeter, NH

Walk alongside women of the Gospels and explore what it means to be loved by a God who longs to bless you, help you, heal you, forgive you, and give you a voice. Cost is \$35, lunch included. To register online, please go to www.stmichaelparish.org or contact Susan Breton for more information at religioused@stmichaelparish.org.

Catholic Day
at NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL STADIUM



Sunday, June 9, 2019
Fisher Cats vs. Flying Squirrels
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$8.00 - \$11.25
<http://bit.ly/FCCatholicDiocese>

Includes: Pregame prayer, recognition on the field, singing of the National Anthem & God Bless America, Catholic student announcer of the day, and more!

Please contact Brian Harrison with any questions
bharrison@rcbm.org • (603) 663-0173

YOUNG NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

July 21-26, 2019 ~ Worcester, MA

Young Neighbors In Action is a Catholic week-long mission for high school teens. To learn more, or to register, contact Brian Harrison at bharrison@rcbm.org

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.



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 & friends to do the same.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLAISTOW COUNCIL

24th ANNUAL ST JUDE OPEN

June 1, 2019



The Knights of Columbus are running their 24th Annual St. Jude Open on June 1st at 7:30 AM at Apple Hill Golf Course in East Kingston. This event raises net proceeds in the range of **\$15,000** every year. This year we are helping a family from Atkinson, a mother with three children under the age of 7, whose husband died unexpectedly.

WE NEED YOU!

For \$100/player you get:

- 18 holes golf with cart
- Steak tip lunch
- Gifts/raffles/contests
- Sponsor a hole or have your employer sponsor a hole for \$100
- Come volunteer the day of the tournament

Please be a part of a wonderful local community event with the goal of helping others in need. Please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or dans49@comcast.net to register and/or to get a brochure to become a sponsor.

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI!

May 19, 2019

**Emily Ahearn
Harrison Bloom
Joseph Borgesi
Sophia Borgesi
Kyle Bourque
Sarah Bufano
Dominic Castellano
Allison Chambers
Francesco Cordio
McKenna Donnelly
Jolena Flanagan
MacKenzie Flanagan
Justin Fortson
Jordyn Friel
Joshua Friel**

**Edward Hayes
Jessica Jillson
Jacob Lambert
Elsa Lamere
Ella Lampron
Quin Madore
Carter Noyes
Brady Paul
Joseph Quaratiello
Molly Richardson
Kailin Sullivan
Norah Sullivan
Elizabeth Urick
Zachary Willett
Jake Winslow**



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Love One Another

Lord God almighty,
you have loved us throughout all time.
We share in this love
as we try to obey your command
to love one another.
Through this new commandment,
we reach out in love to our brothers and
sisters
when we offer service to those in need,
when we forgive one another,
and make daily sacrifices for others,
all so that your glory will be revealed.
May our expressions of love for one
another
show our love for you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, May 19, 2019
A New Heaven and a New Earth

Today's Readings: Acts 14:21–27; Psalm 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13; Revelation 21:1–5a; John 13:31–33a, 34–35. “Behold, I make all things new.” In the Second Reading, John’s description of a new heaven and a new earth provides a glimpse of the Parousia, a time when everything will be made new. The glory of God will be revealed then and the faithful will be transformed. This reading is one of the options for a funeral. Mourners are comforted by hearing of the old order passing away and the person entering a place where pain does not exist.

Before Jesus left his disciples, he gave them a new Commandment that would lead to a new way of being. By

loving one another, Jesus said, they would be known as his disciples. Love is a witness to the world. Jesus tells his followers to love “as I have loved you.” How is this love different from the way human beings often love?

During the fifty days of Easter, we rejoice in knowing that Jesus loved us so much that he died and rose from the dead, releasing from death those who believe. Knowing Christ means becoming more like him, loving others as he loved. How can you continue to be open to God’s transforming love so that your life can glorify him? Reflect on this during your quiet prayer time.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 20

The Paraclete

Jesus prepares the disciples that “the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you.” Have there been times in your life when you were especially aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit? What was happening that made you feel that presence? *Today’s Readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 21

My Peace Is My Gift to You

Jesus tells his friends not to be distressed or afraid as he is going away for a while. At this moment of their great fear, he offers them the gift of his peace. This peace is one that no fear, anxiety, or worry can touch. Have you ever had peace amid times of illness or trouble? Are you able to contribute to peace among your family and coworkers? Or do you find yourself bringing fear and worry? Jesus offers us the gift of peace, it is ours to accept or reject. *Today’s Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia

As a young woman, St. Rita of Cascia sought religious life, but her family had other plans for her. She dutifully married and bore two sons. After becoming a widow and upon the death of her sons, she entered religious life. At age sixty, while meditating upon the crucified Christ, a thorn penetrated her forehead and she was afflicted with this stigmata for more than fifteen years. She offered up her constant pain for the physical and spiritual comfort of others. Is there an illness or burden that you are dealing with today? How can you offer that to the Lord? *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 23

Your Joy May Be Complete

After Jesus compares the love that he has for his followers to God’s love for him, he gives what seems like a simple directive. The disciples can remain in his love if they keep the commandments just as he has kept the Father’s commandments. By remaining in Jesus, the disciples’ “joy may be complete.” The source of complete joy is the deep and complete love of God. Can you imagine such joy in your life? *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

Friday, May 24

Bearing Fruit of Love

Jesus concludes the parable of the true vine as he tells the disciples that they are to bear fruit that will remain. The faithful bear fruit by living out the love of God. Those who love are not only disciples but friends of Jesus. After all, he tells his followers, “I have told you everything.” Indeed, we only tell our closest friends everything. *Today’s Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10–12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 25

The World of Hate

“If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” At times, living out the Gospel will mean becoming isolated from friends and family. Jesus tells his disciples that following him comes with a price. Sometimes that price includes being hated. Our consolation is knowing the Lord. If you have ever been the one who ostracized someone for their belief, request forgiveness. *Today’s Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*





Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)

May 19, 2019

Sharing God's Word Everywhere

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I was fortunate to do my hospital chaplaincy rotation with a young seminarian who was ordained about three years after our summer experience. Tom and I became good friends. He came to my wedding and I went to his ordination. My children forever referred to him as Young Fr. Tom. He has been a blessing to me and my family.

When he was ordained, I tried my hand at writing a song as a gift for him. He was so eager and willing to preach the Gospel wherever he was sent that I wanted to mark that in some way. One

lyric I wrote went like this: "Finding our homes where we can share your word, only to leave again when it's been heard...to be your people." Fr. Tom serves in Africa now, training other seminarians, and I often think of him and of that song because I have come to realize that we're all called to share God's word whether we're in a comfortable place or a strange one. Perhaps part of our challenge is to leave the areas where we're comfortable and welcomed for those where the path is rougher and less clear, but the need for the good news is all the greater.

Today our models are Paul and his companions, who travel from place to place to preach the gospel and move on when they have done what they can. They follow Jesus' command to love and find the glory of the Lord in that work and in whom they serve. If we are to be God's people, we also must spread the hope of God's love to all we meet, even if we have to travel far to do so. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 14:21-27

They...reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Revelation 21:1-5a

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

[Jesus said,] "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

***We're all called
to share God's word
whether we're in a
comfortable place
or a strange one.***

A Word from Pope Francis

We must not forget that we celebrate the Eucharist in order to become eucharistic men and women. What does this mean? It means allowing Christ to act within our deeds: that his thoughts may be our thoughts, his feelings our own, his choices our choices too....Doing as Christ did is Christian holiness.

—General audience, April 4, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I have the courage to share God's word, not just in the comfort of familiar surroundings, but with strangers?
- No matter where I go, do my actions reflect Christ's example?

Finding Your Own Way to Pray

By Jim and Susan Vogt

Susan isn't comfortable raising her arms in praise. Jim found the Forty Hours devotion less than satisfying. As children, we both learned the rosary but seldom say it now. None of these prayer styles is wrong; it's just that prayer is such a personal experience. What inspires one person bores another. What seems old-fashioned to one connects another with her religious heritage.

Prayer, be it memorized or spontaneous, individual or communal, filled with incense or fragrant pine needles in a forest, is communication with God. On some level it flows from a human yearning that reaches beyond any particular religion. Most people eventually seek answers to life's persistent questions: Is there anything more than what meets the eye? Is there really an afterlife? We may not be aware of these yearnings, but eventually a crisis occurs, a life-changing decision is before us, or we simply marvel at the miracle of a newborn child—and we pray.

But how? And are we holier if we pray more? Conventional wisdom answers the latter question. Yes, prayer puts us in a more conscious relationship with God. This relationship of thankfulness, dependence, trust, and honor makes us better people—more aware of our inner selves and more attentive to others. It's the how that stymies many of us.



Prayer generally falls into the broad categories of verbal or nonverbal, individual or communal, memorized or spontaneous, contemplative or active. Seekers might experiment with many of the following prayer forms, allowing trial and error to lead them into a deeper conversation with God:

- **Familiar prayers:** Revisit the Our Father, Hail Mary, mealtime grace, or the rosary.
- **Weekday Mass**
- **Spiritual reading:** Our favorites include Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Fr. Richard Rohr, and Kathleen Norris.
- **Liturgy of the Hours:** This originated as the way monks set aside seven times daily to “pray without ceasing.”
- **Short spontaneous prayers:** These may range from “Praise God!” to “Lord, give me wisdom to make a good decision.”
- **Meditation:** Try centering prayer, reflecting on one's day, an examination of conscience, or using a prayer prompt like a picture, statue, or guided meditation.
- **Eucharistic adoration:** Many use this to keep reverent company with the Lord.
- **Communal prayer:** Join others for penance, healing services, or group prayer with friends before a meeting or activity.

- **Nature or everyday circumstances as reminders of God's presence:** Take a reflective walk in the woods, pray at stoplights or while waiting in line—instead of being impatient.
- **Prayers of the heart during crisis or joy:** Check out the psalms to find words to express your sorrow, gratitude, awe, or anger.
- **Prayer with children:** Children can lead us back to prayer if we feel awkward about starting. Other times they pull prayer out of us as we desperately try to understand them.

Remember, prayer is essentially conversation with God. Books and organized prayer can help, but if you have a relationship with someone, you want to spend time together. If you can talk, you can pray. Remember, talking isn't even required; just being in each other's presence counts.

But prayer isn't all there is to spirituality. Becoming a more spiritual person includes having an attitude of gratefulness, looking for the good in others, living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and doing the dishes or changing diapers as acts of service towards loved ones. Donating money so that others' lives may be better, putting up with annoyances, enduring an illness, sacrificing our wants for the needs of another—all of these make our hearts bigger and deepen our spirituality.

Consider this: If you're too busy to pray, you're too busy. +

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 20-25

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:5–18 / Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:7–21 / Jn 15:9–11

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21