



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, June 30, 2019  
Thirteenth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time**

**4:00 PM  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM**

Gathering: Let Us Go To The Altar BB 316

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*I will praise your name, my king and my Lord. (2x)*

Preparation Pescador de Hombres BB 503

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion I Received The Living God BB 326  
I Am The Bread Of Life BB 363

Recessional: Sing, O Sing BB 551

**✠ 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!

	<u><b>June 16, 2019</b></u>	
<b>Offertory</b>		<b>\$5,534.30</b>
<b>Fuel</b>		<b>\$1,327.68</b>

	<u><b>June 23, 2019</b></u>	
<b>Offertory</b>		<b>\$6,501.07</b>

**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. 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**

June 30, 2019	Works of the Holy Father
July 7, 2019	Property Management
July 14, 2019	No Second Collection
July 21, 2019	Fuel

**HOSPITAL VISITATION**

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may make that information known to hospital staff.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In observance of the Independence Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, July 4**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Monday, July 8.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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.

**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/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

**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.*

### SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

### TAI CHI

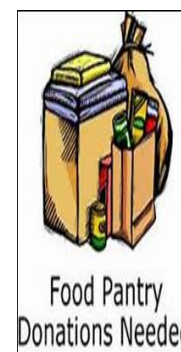
Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and 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.



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 SUMMER...

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

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, July 3  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN  
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, July 4  
NO ADORATION

Saturday, July 6  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### NO DAILY MASS

There will be **NO daily Mass** on **July 1, 2, 3, 4,** and on **July 8, 9, 10, 11.** Our regular daily Mass schedule will resume on Monday, July 15.

### FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net). If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

### 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society**



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

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, July 17 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, June 29 ~ Vigil / 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21; Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62*

4:00 PM Martin Feuer by the Prayer Shawl Committee  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, June 30 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21; Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62*

8:00 AM Bernie Gosselin by Janice Bettencourt  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Richard Faucher  
by his wife, Mary Lou Faucher, and children  
*Plaistow*

Monday, July 1 ~ Junipero Serra, Priest

*Gn 18:16-33; Mt 8:18-22*  
No Mass

Tuesday, July 2 ~ Weekday

*Gn 19:15-29; Mt 8:23-27*  
No Mass

Wednesday, July 3 ~ Thomas, Apostle

*Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29*  
No Mass

Thursday, July 4 ~ Weekday

*Gn 22:1b-19; Mt 9:1-8*  
No Mass

Friday, July 5 ~ Anthony Zaccaria, Priest;

Elizabeth of Portugal  
*Gn 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13*  
No Mass

Saturday, July 6 ~ Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

*Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17 (Day)*  
*Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Barbara Tremblay by Ray and Beverley Viglione  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, July 7 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20*

8:00 AM Bernie Gosselin by Knights of Columbus  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Frank Kelcourse (Birthday Remembrance)  
by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Allow God to journey with you in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **September 14-15, 2019** in Medway, MA and **October 18-20, 2019** in Laconia, NH. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.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](mailto: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](mailto: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, July 7, 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.

**FIAT DAYS**

**Young Women ~ Ages 14-18**  
**July 8-11, 2019**  
**Northeast Catholic College, Warner, NH**

Do you want to say "yes" to God's plan for your life? You are invited to attend the first annual Fiat Days camp to spend time with other young women your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. Fiat Days is an overnight camp led by the Vocations Team of the Diocese and the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love of Rochester, NH. It includes a full schedule of hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports and games, daily Mass and prayer, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other.

Cost is \$50 for the weekend  
(financial aid is available)

For more information, or to register, please visit [www.liveinblackandwhite.com](http://www.liveinblackandwhite.com)

**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](mailto: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	Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314	Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315	Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949	Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Preschool	382-9783	Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744	Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
		Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
		Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net



✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

**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](mailto:bharrison@rcbm.org)

**QUO VADIS DAYS**

**August 5-9, 2019**

**Northeast Catholic College  
Warner, NH**

**Young Men – Ages 14-18**

Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! Young men, ages 14-18, are invited to attend the Second Annual Quo Vadis Days camp to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. Quo Vadis Days is an overnight camp led by priests and seminarians of the Diocese and includes a full schedule of hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports and games, daily Mass and prayer, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other.

Cost is \$50 for the weekend  
(financial aid is available)

For more information, or to register, please visit:  
[www.liveinblackandwhite.com](http://www.liveinblackandwhite.com).

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year for students in Pre-School through Grade 8. Tours of the school are available by appointment. You are invited to come see the many benefits of a Catholic school education! Ask about our CSF Scholarship for transfer students and other financial aid options. Questions? Contact [info@sjrcs.com](mailto:info@sjrcs.com) or 603-893-6811 ext 19.

**AMAZON SMILE**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$37.17 donation** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2019.

**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.amazon Smile.com](http://www.amazon Smile.com). Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

The annual "Baby Bottle Campaign" for the Pregnancy Care Center is under way. The Pregnancy Care Center is a Christ-centered ministry offering life-affirming services designed to empower women and men to make informed decisions about unexpected pregnancy, abstinence education, and recover from post-abortion trauma. These services are free and confidential. Please pick up a bottle and fill it with coins, bills or checks (made payable to PPC). **Return them by next weekend, July 6-7.**



**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](mailto:mjsilvia@rcbm.org).

**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](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org).

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)

# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## THE MASS

Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron. *Word on Fire* states, "this presentation will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life."

Join us for three weeks as Bishop Barron breaks down *The Mass* into six topics; *A Privileged Encounter*; *Called out of the World*; *God Speaks our Story*; *Responding to God*; *Preparing for Sacrifice*; and *The Real Presence Creates Communion*.

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning July 10, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning July 11; please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Monday, July 8. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)

### Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### THE MASS (check one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. \_\_\_\_ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_

July 10 – July 24

July 11 – July 25



# What are...

## Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin  
Diocese of Youngstown in Ohio

### THEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In 1971 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist were first permitted in the United States. At that time the Congregation of the Sacraments responded to a request of the American bishops to allow laypersons to assist priests in giving Holy Communion.

In January 1973, Pope Paul VI, in the instruction "Immensae Caritatis," extended this permission to the universal Church. He wrote: "Present-day conditions demand that greater access to Holy Communion should be made possible so that the faithful, by sharing more fully in the fruits of the sacrifice of the Mass, might dedicate themselves more readily and effectively to God and to the good of the Church. First of all, provision must be made lest reception become impossible or difficult owing to a lack of a sufficient number of ministers."

The institution of this ministry responds to the condition in the Church today whereby Catholics are encouraged to share in communion at every Eucharist in which they participate, and under both species, and the large number of persons who are coming forward to partake of the body and blood of Christ.

In any parish, qualified persons who have been nominated for service as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist must receive mandate from the Diocesan bishop. The pastor forwards the names of the persons to the bishop asking that they be named for service as extraordinary ministers. This requirement distinguishes the extraordinary minister of the Eucharist from other liturgical ministers and emphasizes the extraordinary nature of this ministry.

Extraordinary ministers are commissioned to function within their own parish for a period of three years. The commission expires after three years or if the person moves away from his or her parish. The commission is

renewable by again requesting the endorsement from the bishop. Commissioning should take place during a parish celebration according to the rite provided in the Book of Blessings. The commission may be revoked by the pastor if the individual no longer fulfills the requirements for this ministry established below.

### RESPONSIBILITY/PURPOSE

"Extraordinary ministers may distribute Holy Communion at Eucharistic celebrations only when there are no ordained ministers present or when those ordained ministers present at a liturgical celebration are truly unable to distribute Holy Communion. They may also exercise this function at Eucharistic celebrations where there are particularly large numbers of the faithful and which would be excessively prolonged because of an insufficient number of ordained ministers to distribute Holy Communion." (Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests)

Extraordinary ministers are also used in order that the sick or homebound may receive communion with the frequency recommended in the revised rite for the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. Any person who regularly takes communion to the sick is to be trained and commissioned. An individual may be commissioned for only this aspect of the ministry or may perform this service within the Eucharistic assembly. To establish the connection between the Sunday assembly and the homebound and sick of the parish, extraordinary ministers ideally are sent from the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist to take communion to them.

### SELECTION/DISCERNMENT

**Extraordinary ministers are to be fully initiated Catholics (having received Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation, be at least 16 years of age, and lead lives in harmony with the undertaking of this ministry including participating in the sacramental life of the Church. If married, a Minister must have been married validly in the Catholic Church. The Pastor, Parish staff, and Pastoral Council assist in discerning parishioners to fulfill this ministry.**



# Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
June 30, 2019

## God's Kingdom Is Ahead

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Sometimes, someone's actions have hurt me so badly that I hardly knew how to react. At those times, I have dealt with sadness, anger, and the desire for revenge. It takes me a long time to let go of hurt. My mind goes on offense. I think about what I wanted to say. I want the person to acknowledge the hurt, apologize, admit I was right, and say she was wrong. There are times I feel I'm caught in a trap of my own making. I want to be free of the hurt, but I don't want to let it go until the other person totally satisfies my needs.

In the Gospel, the apostles wanted to call down fire on the Samaritan village that did not welcome Jesus. They wanted the people of the village to see how wrong they were and how right Jesus was. I imagine they talked about it until Jesus, tired of hearing their complaints, rebuked them.

Why did he do that? At least part of the answer comes in the passage that follows Jesus' rebuke. Would-be followers of Jesus want to attend to something in their past life before they join him. Jesus reminds them of the futility of that by using an example that is immediately apparent to farmers.

To plow a straight line, we have to look ahead and follow the one who leads us. If we turn our heads to look back, our line and our lives will go crooked. Clinging to past hurts makes it hard to look ahead. If we are to be disciples, we must learn to let go and forgive in the same way that we are forgiven. +

*To plow a straight line,  
we have to look forward  
and follow the one  
who leads us.*

## Sunday Readings

### 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21

Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you."

### Galatians 5:1, 13-18

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

### Luke 9:51-62

Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

## A Word from Pope Francis

Mercy is something which is difficult to understand: it doesn't eliminate sin.... Mercy is the manner in which God forgives.

—Morning meditation, April 7, 2014



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I spend too much of my life "looking in the rearview mirror"?
- If I am holding a grudge against someone, can I reach out to him or her today and make peace?



# Christian Parenting in a Secular World

By Kathy Coffey

Just as we are made in God's image, so do our children model us. If they are to appreciate and then give even a glimmer of God's unconditional love, they must first experience it from their parents. This prompts the questions: What specifically do Christian parents hand on to their children?



Which of our qualities do we most want them to imitate?

The *General Directory for Catechesis* affirms the role of parents: "Parents are the primary educators in the faith (GDC 255). Parents nurture faith by showing their children the richness of lived faith. "In a certain sense, nothing replaces family catechesis, especially for its positive and receptive environment, for the example of adults, and for its first explicit experience and practice of the faith" (GDC 178).

A child who has been neglected or abused has difficulties trusting others. If Mom or Dad doesn't respond when an infant wails from hunger, that child gradually abandons hope that anyone will meet his or her need. If the cry is answered consistently, the parent lays the foundation for a life of faith, trust, freedom to express oneself, and the joy of being comforted.

A parent's tenderness when feeding a baby or playing with a child speaks

volumes about God's loving concern. Initially, humans can't understand abstractions. We learn from touch, voice, hugs, and gestures. This simple, unspoken language is irreplaceable for the message it delivers: You are valuable, cherished.

Parents who are nervous about conveying Catholic doctrine they

haven't studied since eighth grade can be reassured. A loving, personal relationship with God is best nourished at home. Adults asked about their first memory of faith often say the Christmas crèche or carols, Grandma working in her rose garden near the statue of St. Francis, family prayer before meals or at bedtime, Scripture stories, family traditions during Advent or Lent. Without that early foundation, later religious education has little basis on which to build.

The parish, school, and faith-formation program can excel at sharing the content of our faith. Trained homilists, catechists, and teachers may use the latest strategies and resources, but they admit their job becomes easier when it's reinforced in the home.

Parents may convey more by their attitudes than by words. They also know their child better than anyone else, so they're in a position to communicate clearly. Does a child see parents sacrificing their leisure time to read a

bedtime story and say evening prayers? Do they notice intentional efforts toward kindness and peacemaking in the home? If so, the message is obvious: My parents value me and our faith.

Most parents want their children to succeed academically, socially, or athletically. They invest time and money in education, parties, or sports. Equally important, but often neglected, is a child's inner life. At some time, the child will face disappointment: not making the team, failing a class, losing a friend, or experiencing a death. He or she will then need to tap nourishing resources.

Again, parents can be models: when they face loss, they turn to Jesus, who was certainly not an academic, athletic, or social success. He died an outlaw, a criminal crucified by religious and state authorities. While that's hardly a parent's dream for a child, Jesus gave us another definition for success. From his tragic tomb emerged everlasting life. He taught us to value our union with God more than anything the world can offer. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, your cross and resurrection set us free. Please liberate me from the prison of selfishness. Empower me to lovingly serve my brothers and sisters.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage, Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

July 1–6

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Gn 18:16–33 / Mt 8:18–22

**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Gn 19:15–29 / Mt 8:23–27

**Wednesday, St. Thomas:**  
Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

**Thursday, Weekday:**  
Gn 22:1b–19 / Mt 9:1–8

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13

**Saturday, Weekday:**  
Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 / Mt 9:14–17