



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, July 7, 2019
Fourteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,
O taste and see the goodness of the
Lord.*

Preparation Prayer of St. Francis BB 523

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion The Supper Of The Lord BB 351
Here I Am, Lord BB 378

Recessional: Sent Forth By God's Blessing BB 387

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

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

Preparation You Are Mine BB 456
Eye Has Not Seen BB 461

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion The Supper Of The Lord BB 351
Be Not Afraid BB 431

Recessional: Sing Of The Lord's Goodness BB 561



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 & friends to do the
same.

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
JUNE 30, 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

July 7, 2019	Property Management
July 14, 2019	No Second Collection
July 21, 2019	Fuel
July 28, 2019	Parish to Parish Support

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 Offertery 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.

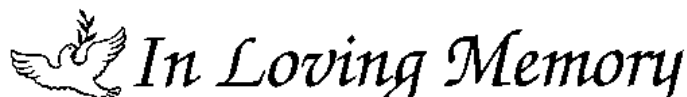
Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to
Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the 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.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

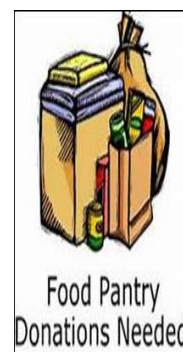
John Troy

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 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.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, July 10
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, July 11

8:30 AM Adoration Begins **Newton**
8:30 PM Adoration Ends **Newton**

Saturday, July 13

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation **Plaistow**

NO DAILY MASS

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

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.

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



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

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, 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, July 6 ~ Vigil / 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

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

Monday, July 8 ~ Weekday
Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26
No Mass

**Tuesday, July 9 ~ Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and
Companions, Martyrs**
Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38
No Mass

Wednesday, July 10 ~ Weekday
Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Mt 10:1-7
No Mass

Thursday, July 11 ~ Benedict, Abbot
Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29, 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15
No Mass

Friday, July 12 ~ Weekday
Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23
No Mass

Saturday, July 13 ~ Henry
Gn 49:29-32, 50:15-26a; Mt 10:24-33 (Day)
Dt 30:10-14; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Millie Gattinella by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, July 14 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 30:10-14; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37
8:00 AM All Recipients of Prayer Shawls
by the Prayer Shawl Committee
Newton
10:00 AM D. Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

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.

JULY 7, 2019

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



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

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, 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.

ROSARY / FAMILY PRAYER HOUR LED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus leads a rosary on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Knights also lead a Family Prayer Hour which includes a Rosary on the 3rd Thursday of each month, also starting at 7:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. There are some quiet activities for the younger children during the Family Prayer Hour. The Knights invite all members of the parish to join them to pray the rosary and to participate in the Family Prayer Hour.



The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week for
in loving memory of
Patrick Haughn
and
Jennifer Racioppi
by their mother

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.**

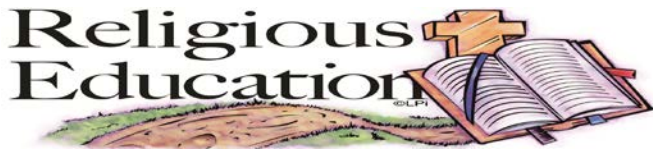
✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

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 ✠



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Registration for the 2019-2020 Academic Year for Grades Pre-K through 8 has begun. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call Joyce Szczapa in the Religious Education Office at 603-382-8324 for more information.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Joyce at jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

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. 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>.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Your St Jude Council has been very active in the local community over the last several weeks and would like to take this opportunity to say thanks for supporting our recent community projects.

Tootsie Roll Drive: The Council raised close to \$8,000 to assist the mentally and physically challenged in our local community and in NH. Donations will be made to NH Special Olympics, Camp Fatima in NH that hosts the mentally and physically challenged, and to local organizations such as the Kimi Nichols Center and the Haverhill Clubhouse which assists the mentally and physically challenged.

24th Annual St Jude Open: The Council held its Annual Golf Open to help a 27 year old widow from Atkinson with 3 young children. The Open sold out early with 144 golfers, 80+ hole sponsors, and several silent auction items that were donated. The Knights prepared an excellent steak BBQ for the golfers. We had great weather and everyone had a wonderful time. We raised several thousands of dollars which is being donated to this young widow.

Handicap Ramp: The Council was able to raise funds to purchase lumber and Knights volunteered to build a ramp for a fellow Knight who is a veteran and is disabled and his wife is also disabled. The ramp will make it much easier for them to enter and leave their home.

If you are a practicing Catholic adult man, 18 years and older, please consider joining the Knights to "do good" in the local community and in our parish with other likeminded men and their families. There is never any pressure to participate and you only give what time you can, when you can. For more information on the Knights, call or email Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, dans49@comcast.net, or go on line to www.kofc.org/joinus

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.

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.

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

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

✠ AROUND THE PARISH & DIOCESE ✠



MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.

STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.



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 (*increase is due to change in size of arrangement and deliver charge*), 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.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00.



HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wmme.org.

NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or ddemers@aviconpartners.com.

RETRouvaille...A Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.





Bringing Home the Word

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

July 7, 2019

Becoming Lambs Among Wolves

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Our nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom. For the most part, we can worship as we like, believe as we like, and enjoy the security that comes from knowing we will not be punished, abused, or discriminated against for our faith. That has not always been the case for all Christians, both throughout history and recently in several countries. Through the media we learn of ongoing killings and oppression inflicted on those who publicly claim to be Christian.

Jesus sent his disciples to preach the good news “like lambs among wolves.” Anyone who knows this simile knows how terrible it is—they will stand out, become the first targets, and easy prey. But Jesus doesn’t tell them to fight back or disguise themselves. Rather, he tells them to give witness at the kitchen table and eat what’s put in front of them. In effect, Jesus tells them to get at the heart of people’s lives and to wish them peace. Even if their peace is not returned, the disciples are not to let that weigh them down. “Shake the dust from your feet” and move on, Jesus says in Matthew 10:14.

Preaching the gospel is the mission of a disciple, no matter where or when he or she lives. Today, in honor of those who have given their lives in service of the gospel, share with one or two people the good news of what God has done in your life. Listen to them. Invite them to come to church. Offer to pray with them. Just for today, be the sheep that everyone sees. You never know who might join the flock. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 66:10–14c

For thus says the LORD: I will spread prosperity over [Jerusalem] like a river, like an overflowing torrent.

Galatians 6:14–18

From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

Luke 10:1–12, 17–20 or Luke 10:1–9

[Jesus] said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

***Share with one or two people
the good news of what God
has done in your life.***

A Word from Pope Francis

Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have.

—Blessing of ashes, March 5, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Rather than just trading small talk, do I work to get at the heart of people’s lives?
- Who might I invite to come to church?

Staying on the Right Path

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

"Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves" (Luke 10:3).

Jesus was a realist. The world, although charged with God's grandeur, is also an environment scarred by sin and misused freedom.

For centuries Christian writers spoke of life as warfare, a battle unto death. So Jesus gives two pieces of advice to the disciples, to us: Be shrewd! Be simple! To ground these characteristics in his followers' imagination, Jesus points out the cunning of serpents and the simplicity of doves. This symbolism contains a wealth of wisdom.

Be shrewd! When the Pharisees questioned Jesus about the payment of taxes, they received an answer that foiled their plot to incriminate him. The wolves were after the innocent Lamb. Jesus fended off their designs by distinguishing one's double obligation to God and to the city of man. Jesus answered a question with a question, thereby confusing his opponents. Jesus himself was shrewd—in the ways of the kingdom.

Shrewd, too, was Oskar Schindler (1908–1974), a German industrialist who helped save more than a thousand Jews from Hitler's death camps. Living in a culture of hatred and death, Schindler used his intelligence, material resources,



and the God-given grace of compassion to thwart time and time again the work of the Nazis. Perhaps our passage, "I am sending you like lambs among wolves" was engraved on his heart.

Be simple! In contrast to serpents that are earthbound and dependent upon

deception for their survival, doves have as their realm the spaciousness of the sky and the gift of flight. Although their simplicity may hold more complexity than we know, the image of simplicity captures the quality of single-mindedness. Doves live in total dependency upon divine providence, as do we all. We, as human beings, can live with awareness that we are radically poor and, therefore, everything is a gift. Consciousness of our innate poverty tends to simplify life.

All About Love

In *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau's classic, he cries: "Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million, count half a dozen, and keep your account on your thumbnail."

Whether or not Thoreau had Matthew's passage in mind, the advice here is similar to Jesus'. There is one thing that is necessary. Martha thought it was hospitality; Mary opted for contemplation. Martha waited on table to express her

love; Mary gazed upon the face of Jesus and knew that love simplified everything.

As disciples of the Lord we are sent. Through baptism we have been given a mission to invite others to know, love, and imitate the life of Jesus. But we are sent into a world filled with forces contrary to gospel values. We work and live in an ambiguous culture, one of death, blatant consumerism, violence, and injustice that violates human dignity. We need a shrewdness that is first cousin to prudence if our ministry in such an environment is to succeed.

Sense of Direction

We are sent but not alone. The Spirit is given to us and is the principal agent of our discipleship. God's Spirit is simple, for God is love. Here is the cornerstone that supports and sustains our Christian community and ministry. It is the Spirit that unifies all of our activities so that they lead to the glory of God.

Jesus is Lord and the true vine feeding us life and love. Prayer keeps us united to him. We are to bear fruit through service and witness. And, in all this, we give glory to God. Nothing can be simpler—or shrewder. +



Lord, your love protects us in times of trouble. Strengthen my faith that I may be a source of strength to others.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 8–13

Monday, Weekday: Gn 28:10–22a / Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday, Weekday: Gn 32:23–33 / Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday, Weekday: Gn 41:55–57; 42:5–7a, 17–24a / Mt 10:1–7

Thursday, St. Benedict: Gn 44:18–21, 23b–29; 45:1–5 / Mt 10:7–15

Friday, Weekday: Gn 46:1–7, 28–30 / Mt 10:16–23

Saturday, Weekday: Gn 49:29–32; 50:15–26a / Mt 10:24–33