



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, August 4, 2019
Eighteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: All Creatures Of Our God And King BB 537

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Preparation Eye Has Not Seen BB 461

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion One Bread, One Body BB 339
Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 506

Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 381

10:00 AM

Gathering: Be Thou My Vision BB 396

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.

Preparation Eye Has Not Seen BB 461
Seek Ye First BB 435

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Loving And Forgiving BB 665
We Remember BB 494

Recessional: We Are The Light Of The World BB 597



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!

July 28, 2019

Offertory \$5,698.68
Parish to Parish Support \$1,242.00

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

August 4, 2019 Property Management
August 11, 2019 NH Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH
August 15, 2019 Assumption of Mary

**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.

ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS, EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, AND LECTORS

Scheduling for August 31 – November 27

Jeanne Sullivan needs to be notified **by August 7** regarding the Masses at which you either wish to serve and/or cannot serve from August 31 to November 27, 2019.

Thank you for your input, and as always, for the wonderful service you perform for the parish.

Please contact Jeanne Sullivan directly at 382-4760 or jmsul@myfairpoint.net.

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Monday, August 5

7:00 AM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Wednesday, August 7
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, August 8

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

Saturday, August 10

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, August 11

11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

On Thursday, August 15 we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, a **holy day of obligation**. Liturgies for the Assumption will be celebrated in **Plaistow at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 14** and in **Newton at 8:00 AM on Thursday, August 15**.



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in honor of **June Mullin** by Bill Mullin

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, August 21 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, August 3 ~ Vigil / 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
 4:00 PM Helen Araskiewicz (4th Anniversary) by her family
Plaistow

Sunday, August 4 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
 8:00 AM Roxanne Papken by Jim Edwards
Newton
 10:00 AM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Monday, August 5 ~ Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

Nm 11:4b-15; Mt 14:13-21
 8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Tuesday, August 6 ~ The Transfiguration of the Lord

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
 8:00 AM John Troy (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 7 ~ Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs: Cajetan, Priest

Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Mt 15:21-28
 6:30 PM Richard Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan
Plaistow

Thursday, August 8 ~ Dominic, Priest

Nm 20:1-13; Mt 16:13-23
 8:00 AM Mark Matson by Richard and Susan Burns
Newton

Friday, August 9 ~ Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr

Dt 4:32-40; Mt 16:24-28
 No Mass

Saturday, August 10 ~ Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26 (Day)
Wis 18:6-9; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Sandy Slauter by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, August 11 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 18:6-9; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48
 8:00 AM George Moulaison (3rd Anniversary) by his wife and family
Newton
 10:00 AM D. Jesselyn Driscoll by her 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 ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Julito Intervalo** by Tess Moulaison

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, August 11, 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.

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.

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**

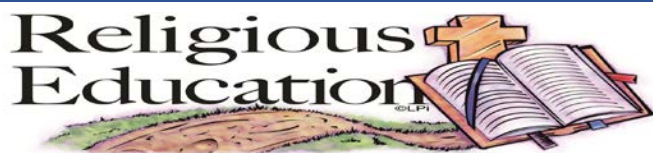
If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

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	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	mvbarczak@comcast.net
		Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
		Parish Council	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.

CASA PROGRAM

Help Abused And Neglected Children

CASA of NH trains concerned citizens to advocate for abused and neglected children in the courts. There are children waiting for someone to speak on their behalf. Your common sense, commitment to children, and a contribution of 10-15 hours a month will help ensure a child grows up in a safe, permanent home. To become a CASA/GAL volunteer and help the children in your community, please call 800-626-0622 or apply at www.casanh.org/onlineapplication. A five-week training will begin on September 11, 2019.

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 <https://www.wmema.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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

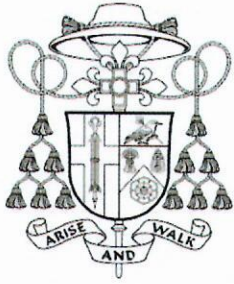
Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary in 2019 of **5, 25 or 50 years**, to attend the **Fall Wedding Anniversary Mass**. This celebration will be held on **Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM, at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester**. To register, please contact your parish office by **September 20, 2019**. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. Couples celebrating anniversaries of 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55+ years will be asked to register later for a spring celebration. To all other married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this fall's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM

The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory classes will be held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mary Menendez, CFCP, St. Gerard Majella FertilityCare Services, at 603-642-8050 or CreightonFertility@yahoo.com.

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



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

July 31, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been more than one year since we learned of reports of misconduct involving then-Cardinal McCarrick, quickly followed by the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury investigation, which detailed terrible accounts of sexual abuse of minors by clergy. Since that time, I have updated you as I have sought guidance on what our Diocese can do to enhance our efforts to protect minors and emerge as a place of hope and healing. I prayed deeply for guidance from our Lord, sought counsel from many of you in my own flock, and worked to engage in renewed efforts toward protecting children and vulnerable adults in our ministries.

In my last letter to you, I wrote of the Holy Father's *motu proprio*, "*Vos estis lux mundi*", a formal document in which Pope Francis provided new norms for the worldwide response to sexual abuse. While much of what is required in these new norms already has been in place in the Diocese of Manchester for many years, there are several steps I am taking with others locally, regionally, and nationally. For example, since 2003, the Code of Conduct in the Diocese of Manchester has included a mechanism to report concerns involving bishops. Together with my brother bishops from across the country, we met in June and implemented key components of the *motu proprio*, including an agreement to initiate a national third-party reporting system for receiving confidentially, by phone and online, reports of misconduct or abuse by bishops. The bishops of the United States have committed to activating the system no later than May 31, 2020.

Additionally, I wanted to let you know that the Diocese of Manchester has launched a new section on our website designed to provide further transparency to our ongoing commitment to protecting minors. Here we have not only compiled resources for victim-survivors, families, and those who wish to report abuse, but the site also includes a single place to review the names of priests who have been accused of sexual abuse of a minor since 1950. I am publishing names that have already been made public on some level and also including two names more-recently reported and investigated of abuse that occurred more than forty-five years ago. We are now aggregating this information in a readily accessible format at www.catholicnh.org/restoringtrust.

On behalf of my predecessors and the Church in New Hampshire, I am sorry. I seek your forgiveness for the grave sins of abuse and betrayal of trust that representatives of the Church committed. Each and every day, I pray that victim-survivors find healing. I also fervently pray that we never allow such darkness to enter our Church again. With these new efforts, I hope to continue on a path to restoring your trust.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester

HAVE YOU READ THE BOOK YET?
INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE
By St. Francis de Sales

Join us for five weeks of exploring and discussing this timeless spiritual guide.

Five Weeks with St. Francis de Sales will be broken down into five themes:

1. Pursuing a devout life whole-heartedly
2. Incorporating prayer and sacraments into a busy schedule
3. Growing in virtue
4. Battling wisely against temptation
5. Making spiritual progress through daily, monthly, and yearly exercises

HOMEWORK: READ THE PREFACE AND PART 1 BY THE FIRST GROUP MEETING*

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 25, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 26; 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, September 16. 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 _____

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE (check one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ____ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. ____
Sept. 25 – Oct. 23 Sept. 26 – Oct. 24

*There are many different publications of INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE, you may read whatever copy you may have or want to purchase on your own, or if you would like a copy ordered, please call Cathy at 382-8324 by August 12, so these can be ordered in time to read for the first session. The price of these ordered copies from *Ignatius Press* will be \$12.

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

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 4, 2019

Building Bigger Barns

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I love to buy storage materials. My heart longs for the matching bins and boxes that claim to organize all the stuff in my house. *If I just get the right-sized box, I think, I will be able to keep everything I have and make room for more.* If Jesus were telling Sunday's Gospel parable today, perhaps the rich man wouldn't (just) be building bigger barns; he might be installing a better organization system.

The problem with a consumer society is that it tempts us to buy and collect far more than we need. We sometimes

think we must have the latest phone, appliances, or fashions even as our existing toys and clothes vie for space in our closets and drawers. We rush to recycle in order to take advantage of sales and hardly pause to wonder, "Do I really need this?" We rarely, if ever, reflect on the truism, "You can't have everything—what would you do with it?"

If we give in to the temptation to acquire more things, to build bigger barns, we may find ourselves held captive by material goods—counting them, managing and maintaining them, or protecting and paying them off. Perhaps our time and energy would be better spent making sure that others have enough to eat and a place to sleep—in other words, being the image of the generous and loving God who "bestow[s] on the world all that is good" (Eucharistic Prayer III and IV). Today let us let go, clear away the clutter, and embrace the simplicity and freedom of loving in truth and fullness. +

Sunday Readings

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23

For what profit comes to mortals from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which they toil under the sun?

Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Luke 12:13–21

[Jesus said,] "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

*If we give in to the
temptation to acquire more,
to build bigger barns,
we may become captive to
material goods.*

A Word from Pope Francis

To set aside a moment of silence each day to be with God is to "keep" our soul; it is to "keep" our freedom from being corroded by the banality of consumerism, the blare of commercials, the stream of empty words, and the overpowering waves of empty chatter and loud shouting.

—World Day of Peace, January 1, 2018



REFLECTION
QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION
REFLECTION

- What am I working for?
- Where is my heart?
- How might I exchange "bigger barns" for a life of simplicity?

Living Simply in This Material World

By Jim and Susan Vogt

Bottled water, home computers, and cell phones. Today, people take for granted these things that can make life easier. However, with more choices and conveniences also come complexities and moral dilemmas. *How can things so helpful be bad, we ask?*

Bottled water was once a traveler's safeguard against impure water. But tap water in US municipalities meets higher standards, and eliminates the waste of throwaways. Sure, water is an improvement over soda to quench a thirst, but is it so difficult to put tap water into a reusable container?

Home computers—love 'em when they work, curse 'em when they crash or introduce a virus. And that doesn't include separating beneficial content from pornography or marketing scams that computers bring into our homes.

Yes, a cell phone is a wonderful safety device when the car breaks down. Yes, it helps family members keep in touch. And yes, it causes motor vehicle accidents, distracts from face-to-face conversations, and annoys bystanders.

How did we function without technological conveniences? In some ways better and in others worse. Certainly a lot of paper was used on snail mail, and before cell phones parents couldn't always find their teenagers.



The point is not that we should discard all conveniences but that we should use modern technology wisely and not buy just because we can.

Guard Against Greed

These are subjective, thorny lifestyle decisions. Although Jesus isn't posted at the checkout

lane prompting us on the morality of our purchases, he does speak to us through Scripture. He said, "Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them" (Matthew 6:26). And don't forget that disturbing passage about the rich man whom Jesus told, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor" (Matthew 19:21).

How do we take these challenges? To say they are only metaphors that are unrealistic for today seems intellectually dishonest. Likewise, to quit our jobs, sell our possessions, and move to Haiti seems irresponsible. After all, we might have a family to support, a job that benefits society, and people who depend on us.

Living Simply

We propose focusing on the spirit of Jesus' words and keeping close enough to the poor to let them check our conscience for rationalization.

Travel light through life. Free your household of unnecessary possessions. We asked ourselves whether we really needed cable TV, two cars, three cell phones, and four computers. We didn't. It's good for our souls, psyches, and pocketbooks to live with less.

Evaluate the impact of purchases on God's creation. How much of the earth's resources are used in overpackaging? A hybrid car may cost more but puts less stress on the earth's resources. Driving less is even better, and walking makes gym memberships less necessary.

Resist advertising. Realize that the goal of marketing is to persuade us to spend our way to happiness. Remember the birds in the sky? True happiness comes from the contentment of a life well-lived in harmony with God's design, not by accumulating goods.

Recover values like frugality. Frugality comes naturally to some, but not others. To paraphrase Jesus' words to the rich man, consider that what we own is probably more than we need. Take steps to let go. +



Lord, you are the source and foundation of life. Help me grow rich in love and forgiveness as I share what I have with others.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 5–10

Monday, Weekday: Nm 11:4b–15 / Mt 14:13–21

Tuesday, Transfiguration of the Lord: Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 / 2 Pt 1:16–19 / Lk 9:28b–36

Wednesday, Weekday: Nm 13:1–2, 25–14:1, 26a–29a, 34–35 / Mt 15:21–28

Thursday, St. Dominic: Nm 20:1–13 / Mt 16:13–23

Friday, Weekday: Dt 4:32–40 / Mt 16:24–28

Saturday, St. Lawrence: 2 Cor 9:6–10 / Jn 12:24–26

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

August 4, 2019

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