



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, August 11, 2019
Nineteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: Come, Christians, Join To Sing BB 548
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Preparation You Are Mine BB 456
Mass Parts Mass of Creation
Communion Take And Eat BB 360
Recessional: Let All Things Now Living BB 588

10:00 AM

Gathering: For You Are My God BB 429
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Servant Song BB 376
O God, You Search Me BB 437
Mass Parts Mass of Creation
Communion You Are Near BB 434
Loving And Forgiving BB 665
Recessional: Blest Be The Lord BB 430



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!

August 4, 2019

Offertory	\$6,497.37
Property Management	\$1,420.00

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 11, 2019	NH Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH
August 15, 2019	Assumption of Mary
August 18, 2019	Fuel

**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!

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?

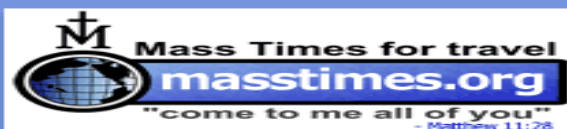
Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to
Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.

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 are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARIAN ICON

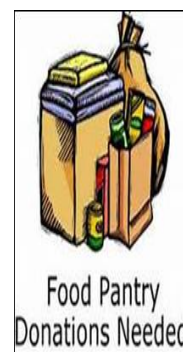
St. Jude Council will have an Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians icon here in the parish for the **week of August 19th**. This icon is produced by the Knights in support of Christians living in Syria and throughout the Middle East. Two of these icons have been making their way around New Hampshire since the beginning of the year. You will have several opportunities to see the icon during its time with us. It will be on display at the church in **Plaistow on Wednesday the 21st** while it is open for prayer, at the church in **Newton on Thursday the 22nd** while it is open for Adoration, and at each **Mass on the weekend of the 24th and 25th**. The Knights here in the parish are also planning to hold a prayer service during the week when the icon is here. Please check next week's bulletin to learn when and where it will take place. For more information, please contact Jeff Lozeau at 603-661-8285 or email him at jlozeau@gmail.com.



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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, August 11

11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*

Wednesday, August 14
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, August 15

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

Saturday, August 17

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, August 18

11:00 AM RCIA *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**.

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.

**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 10 ~ Vigil / 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 18:6-9; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48

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

Monday, August 12 ~ Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27

8:00 AM Frances Driscoll (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, August 13 ~ Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus,

Priest, Martyrs

Dt 31:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

8:00 AM Ryan Driscoll by Matthew Lajoie
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 14 ~ Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and

Martyr

Dt 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20 (Day)

1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:54b-57;

Lk 11:27-28 (Vigil)

6:30 PM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

Thursday, August 15 ~ The Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

8:00 AM Helene Downey by her children
Newton

Friday, August 16 ~ Stephen of Hungary

Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12

No Mass

Saturday, August 17 ~ Weekday

Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15 (Day)

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Barbara Tremblay by Rachel Lanseigne
Plaistow

Sunday, August 18 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

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

10:00 AM Ronald F. Ruggiero by Joan A. Ruggiero
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.

AUGUST 11, 2019

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
George Moulaison
by his wife, 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.

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.

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.

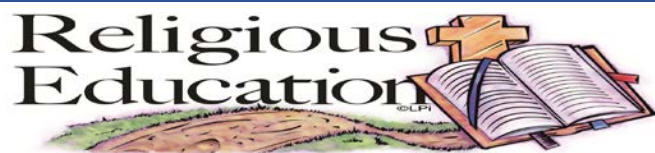
The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
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	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@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.mema.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.

23rd Annual St. Charles 5K Road Race

The St. Charles 5K is in its 23rd year of offering a fun-filled, affordable and family-oriented 5K run and walk to benefit St. Charles School in Rochester. Once again the race will be held on Labor Day, **September 2, 2019**, at Martin's Point Healthcare on the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, NH with a 9:00 AM start. The course is flat and fast – perfect for serious runners and casual walkers. There will be great food, including burgers and hotdogs, bagels, fruit, donuts – and yes – even coffee for those that need it to wake up! Cash awards will go to the top four male and female finishers, as well as medals to the top three finishers in each category. And if you run your personal best, you will receive a PR keychain medal. Pre-registration is just \$20 for those 13 and over and kids 12 and under are always \$10! Race day registration increases to \$30 for those 13 and over. Free performance t-shirts will be given to the first 300 registrations and free kids Fun Run for ages 2-7 after the race. For more information visit www.runningnuns.com.

ST. GIANNA'S PLACE ACCEPTING RESIDENTS

Do you know a pregnant woman in crisis who is in need of safe housing and support? St. Gianna's Place is open and is now accepting residents. Please visit their website at stgiannasplace.org or call 603-521-8440. They are there to help!

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

Saint Luke the Evangelist

8 Atkinson Depot Road Plalstow, NH 03865 TEL (603) 382-8324 FAX (603) 382-1113

August 2019

Dear Parishioners of Saint Luke the Evangelist,

“BACK TO SCHOOL” time has arrived once again

The Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry services between 150-175 families a month from area towns. Last summer, we began a program to assist local families who are struggling financially with some of the extra expenses of back to school shopping.

Once again, we would like to supply families with gift cards to Walmart, Kohls, or TJ Maxx/Marshalls to help with back to school shopping. We are asking for your help. If you would like to assist families through the Pantry, you can:

- 1) Make a **monetary donation** (cash or check made out to **“St Luke Food Pantry”**) with a notation in memo **“Back to School.”** You can drop your donation at the Parish Office, or put it into the collection basket during Mass
- 2) You can **obtain gift cards** yourself and put them into an envelope labeled **“Food Pantry - Back to School.”** You can drop the cards off at the Parish Office or put them into the collection basket during Mass
- 3) You are also welcome to **donate a “Back to School” backpack with school supplies** included. You can bring those to Church or drop them off at the Parish Office.

A receipt can be issued for any donation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marie Farren at 603.819.4949. Thank you for your support!

“Together we can make a difference.”

FROM THE AMERICAN BISHOPS

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and President of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Frank J. Dewane, of Venice, Florida, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development have issued the following statement in response to the tragic shootings in El Paso, Texas and in Dayton, Ohio.

"We extend our condolences to the families and friends of those murdered in El Paso and Dayton. The lives lost this weekend confront us with a terrible truth. We can never again believe that mass shootings are an isolated exception. They are an epidemic against life that we must, in justice, face. God's mercy and wisdom compel us to move toward preventative action.

We encourage all Catholics to increased prayer and sacrifice for healing and the end of these shootings. We encourage Catholics to pray and raise their voices for needed changes to our national policy and national culture as well. We call on all relevant committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to outline a reinvigorated policy agenda and pastoral campaign to address ways we can help fight this social disease that has infected our nation. The Conference has long advocated for responsible gun laws and increased resources for addressing the root causes of violence. We also call upon the President and Congress to set aside political interests and find ways to better protect innocent life."

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston issued this statement following the shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio

"The mass murder of 31 innocent people in a 24-hour period, fueled by hate and disregard for human life, is unacceptable in any society. We offer our prayers and support for the communities of El Paso and Dayton in the midst of this time of immense pain.

Our nation was founded on the principle that all people are entitled to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' We implore our elected leaders to rise above ideological differences and work together to address the serious issues facing our country by enacting meaningful and effective policies to end the violence. This includes keeping firearms, particularly assault weapons, out of the hands of those who would use them to inflict devastating harm on our communities. We must address inadequate mental health care in this country. Finally, we must work towards a more civil and just society that rejects all forms of violence and hatred in our country. The fabric of our national conscience is at risk.

Today we give thanks for the bravery of the first responders who selflessly rush to the aid of the victims and pray for the healing of those injured in the shootings. We call upon the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, for the protection of our loved ones, friends and neighbors as we entrust to our Lord's mercy those lost to this violence. Together let us strengthen our commitment to do what is necessary to stop these horrendous attacks."

Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, pray for our troubled country.

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.



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, invites you to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Even if you are unable to attend meetings, your talents are more than welcome.

Shawls can be made with yarn, quilt fabric, or fleece. They are filled with prayer, care and love. They will be given to anyone in need of comfort or solace.

If you are interested in prayerful camaraderie or just want to contribute your talent, consider joining our committee.

If you know of someone that is in need of comfort and would like to receive a gift from our group, please call to make the request.

Barbara Metcalf

603-642-8334

cmbklb@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule:

- First Thursday of each month, except July and August.
- 10 A.M. – 12 Noon
- Parish office building (dining room)
- Material can be supplied

We are honored to provide this service to anyone in need.



Bringing Home the Word

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 11, 2019

Faith: Our Way of Knowing God

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Every week at Mass we remind ourselves of the mystery of our faith—that by his death and resurrection Jesus set us free, and he will come again in glory. How do we know this? Could we convince someone this is true? If “true” means factual evidence backed up by science, we won’t be able to prove this to anyone. But God gives us a different way of knowing. It comes from the revelation of God in creation, Scripture, and Christ. Our faith, a gift from God, is the ability to recognize the truth of the mysteries we proclaim.

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 18:6–9

The expectation of your people was the salvation of the righteous and the destruction of their foes.

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–19 or

Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

Luke 12:32–48 or

Luke 12:35–40

[Jesus said,] “Sell your belongings and give alms....For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

In the reading from Hebrews, the author praises Abraham’s faith, which led him to obey the God he did not know and the tradition he handed on. Abraham wasn’t worried about proving that God spoke to him; he lived it. In the same way, Jesus calls his disciples to be ready and waiting for the Lord’s return.

We can’t convince everyone that the resurrection and baptism affect salvation, that the consecration is real, or that Jesus will come again. We can, however, point to the life and witness of the Church and show the difference our faith makes in our own lives as we encounter others, work for justice, and spread the gospel. Our obedience, virtue, and good works manifest our faith and reveal the truths entrusted to us. Nowhere is this truer than at the eucharistic table, where we celebrate the mysteries in union with and in joyful expectation of the One who was, who is, and who is to come. +

*We can show
the difference
our faith makes
in our own lives
as we encounter others.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Assumption of Mary is a great mystery which regards each one of us, it regards our future. Mary, in fact, precedes us on the path walked upon by those who, through their baptism, have bound their life to Jesus, as Mary bound her own life to him.

—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What difference has my faith made in my life?
- Instead of just professing my faith, do I live it in my actions every day?

Coping with Chronic Illness: A Daily Walk with God

By Susan Hines-Brigger

When you enter our home, it appears to be a normal family household. But look more closely and you'll see a deeper story. Behind the butter in the refrigerator sits my medicine. On top of a cabinet, by my baking supplies, is the container I put my used needles in after my daily injections.

Welcome to life with a chronic illness. I have multiple sclerosis, an autoimmune disorder affecting the central nervous system. I was diagnosed nine years ago, shortly after the birth of the second of our four children. First, I lost hearing in one ear. Then one side of my face went numb. My vision and balance have been affected, and I temporarily lost all feeling in my right leg. Every day I battle overwhelming fatigue and the fear of this disease's unpredictability.

But life goes on. It has to. Clothes must be laundered, homework has to get done, and there are parties to plan.

Sharing the Burden

When first diagnosed, I felt isolated. No one I knew had MS. I knew little about the disease and didn't feel comfortable calling my doctor's office every time I had a question. Being fiercely independent, I vowed to take this on myself. I didn't



want to burden others, nor did I want to be labeled a complainer.

I scanned the Bible for comforting passages. While many resonated, I wasn't finding the comfort I thought I would. That is, until I stumbled across Romans and began to read: "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have

the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another" (12:4-5). Suddenly, it hit me: In my search for comfort, I was missing community, a key part of my Catholic faith.

We Are Many Parts

So, as many people do nowadays, I took to Facebook to share my struggle. Before long, an old friend from high school wrote back. She, too, has MS. Within months, another high school friend was diagnosed. A mom at my kids' school doesn't have MS, but she also faces a chronic illness. She wrote to let me know she "gets it."

We pray for one another, supporting each other when we're weak. And though we come from various faith backgrounds, we are a community—formed person by person, story by story. I've come to realize that my friends and family are the living manifestation of St. Teresa of Ávila's words: "Christ has no body now

on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless his people."

The faith community provides a wonderful network of support during times of need. I was reminded of this when the mother of one of my daughter's classmates died suddenly. The parish rallied around the family. For some, that meant making meals, others physically wrapped their arms around the family. Still others offered prayers.

I've experienced those blessings as I deal with MS. Those moments when I feel lowest are when I'm reminded of Christ's presence. Sometimes it's a kind word from a friend, an unexpected visit, or just a momentary sense of calm. Faith is my security blanket. It gives me something to hold onto when I'm frustrated or sad. My faith tells me, "Don't give up. Hang in there. There's hope." +

PRAYER

Lord, you offered your life out of love for humankind. Help me let go of my possessions so I can generously serve others.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 12–17

Monday, Weekday: Dt 10:12–22 / Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday, Weekday: Dt 31:1–8 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday, St. Maximilian Kolbe: Dt 34:1–12 / Mt 18:15–20

Thursday, Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary: Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56

Friday, Weekday: Jos 24:1–13 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Weekday: Jos 24:14–29 / Mt 19:13–15