

## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, August 18, 2019  
Twentieth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: Gather Your People BB 313

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

*Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

Preparation Psalm 42: As The Deer Longs BB 488

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Seed, Scattered And Sown BB 355  
Our Blessing Cup BB 362

Recessional: Lift High The Cross BB 712

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 304

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 40)

*Here am I, O God, I come to do your will.  
(2x)*

Preparation Like A Shepherd BB 607  
Seek Ye First BB 435

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Our Blessing Cup BB 62  
One Bread, One Body BB 339

Recessional: River Of Glory BB 651



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/) or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

## ✠ 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 11, 2019**

Offertory	\$6,223.27
NH Missionaries	\$1,166.77

### 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 18, 2019	Fuel
August 25, 2019	Missionary Co-op
September 1, 2019	Property Management
September 8, 2019	Catholic University

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?*

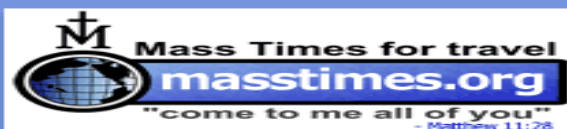
Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to  
**Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.**

#### 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 Pray for Persecuted Christians

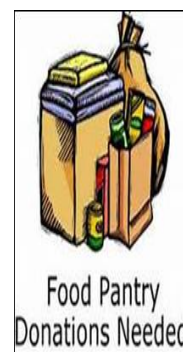
The Knights of Columbus invite you to take part in a special prayer service in support of Christians living in Syria and throughout the Middle East. This service will be on **Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30 PM** at the church in Plaistow. A Marian icon produced by the Knights, the Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians icon, will be on display at this service. Two of these icons have been traveling around the state since the beginning of the year. If you are not able to attend the prayer service the icon will also be at the church in Plaistow while it is open for prayer on **Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>**, at the church in Newton while it is open for Adoration on **Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>**, and at all Masses on the **weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions or would like some more information, please contact Jeff Lozeau at 603-661-8285 or email him at [jlozeau@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, August 18**

11:00 AM RCIA Plaistow

**Wednesday, August 21**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN**  
**ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting Plaistow

**Thursday, August 22**

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

**Saturday, August 24**

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

**Sunday, August 25**

11:00 AM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Plaistow

#### NO DAILY MASS

There will be NO daily Masses celebrated this week – August 19, 20, 21, or 22. Our regular daily Mass schedule will resume next week on August 26.

#### 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 17 ~ Vigil / 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53*

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

**Monday, August 19 ~ John Eudes, Priest**

*Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22*  
 No Mass

**Tuesday, August 20 ~ Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church**

*Jgs 6:11-24a; Mt 19:23-30*  
 No Mass

**Wednesday, August 21 ~ Pius X, Pope**

*Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16*  
 No Mass

**Thursday, August 22 ~ The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*Jgs 11:29-39a; Mt 22:1-14*  
 No Mass

**Friday, August 23 ~ Rose of Lima, Virgin**

*Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Mt 22:34-40*  
 No Mass

**Saturday, August 24 ~ Bartholomew, Apostle**

*Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51 (Day)*  
*Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Ann (McGlaughlin) Ivey by her family  
 Plaistow

**Sunday, August 25 ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30*

8:00 AM Francine Bettencourt by Janice Bettencourt  
 Newton

10:00 AM Helena Bernat by Joan A. Ruggiero  
 Plaistow



The Altar Flowers in Holy Angels Church this weekend were donated in loving memory of

**The Antczak Family**  
 by the Burge family

#### PRAYER LINE

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

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in  
Mary, Mother of the Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Laura 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, September 1, 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

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

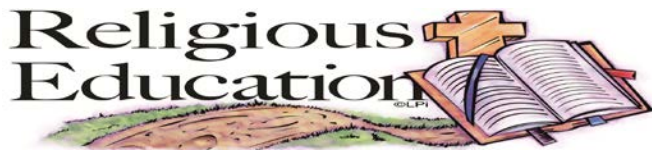
## ✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Thomas Kondel	<a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:youth@stluketheevangelist.net">youth@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



✠ **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](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net).

**WOMEN OF GRACE**

**Become the woman of grace God created you to be!**

**Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal  
Hampton, NH**

The Women of Grace Foundational Study, "*Full Of Grace: Women And The Abundant Life*", is a dynamic program for Catholic women, encouraging study participants to come to a fuller understanding of their dignity and vocation as daughters of God. You will dig deep into Catholic teaching to examine your gift of authentic femininity using the study text "*Full Of Grace*", Sacred Scripture, the Catechism, citations from Vatican II and other Magisterial Documents, as well as the biographies of 16 Catholic women saints. As you learn about the great gift of authentic femininity and how to live it out in the world today, hearts are healed, lives are changed, and souls are saved! Ten weekly sessions will take place on Wednesdays, beginning on **September 25 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon OR 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Registration deadline is September 11, 2019.** Cost is \$45.00 for materials (financial assistance available if needed). For more information, call Kathy Allen at 603-957-0048.

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

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Charles 5K Road Race**

The St. Charles 5K is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://stgiannasplace.org) or call 603-521-8440. They are there to help!

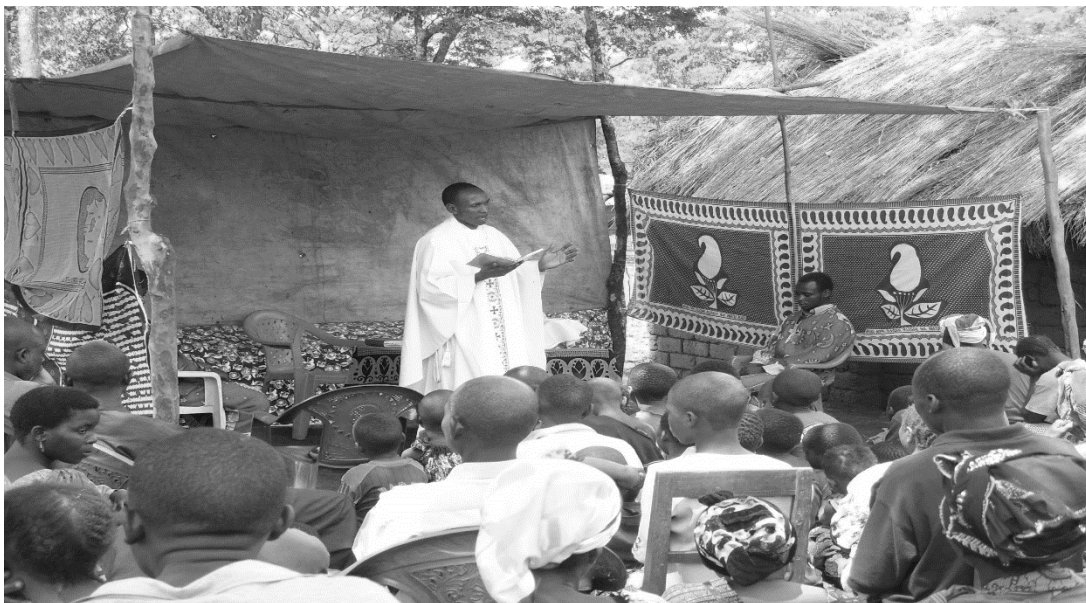
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617  
GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY  
1 HOUR A MONTH**

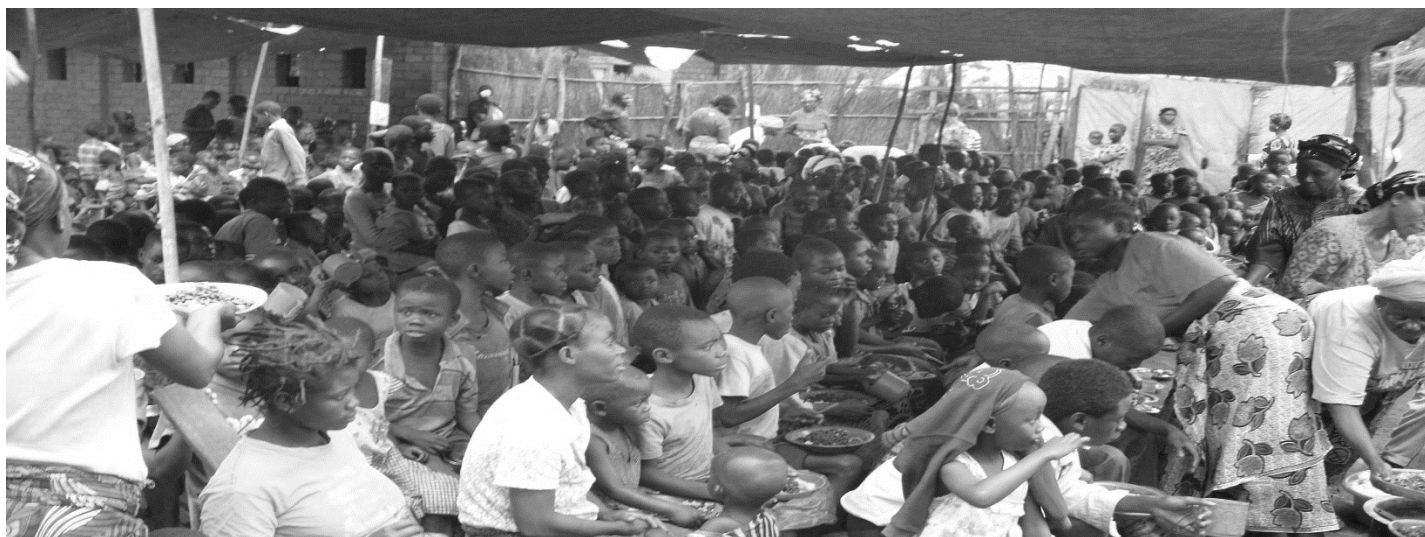
The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus). Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net), or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to [www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)



# DIOCESE OF KIGOMA TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA

The Diocese of Kigoma is a rural diocese in western Tanzania which has a population of approximately 2.2 million people of whom 25% are Catholics. We have 27 parishes with 270 outstation churches staffed by 66 priests, 620 catechists, 125 female religious and 10 religious brothers. The Church in Kigoma is truly in the work of evangelization among people of different backgrounds and religious beliefs, such as Muslims and believers in traditional African religions. Our catechists carry out pastoral management tasks in our outstation churches where the daily presence of our priests is not feasible. Our parish priests who may have ten or more outstation churches are challenged to travel by jeeps or motorcycles on poor roads and paths to reach their parishioners. The poverty of our people prevents them from being able to do upkeep to their churches and to support their priests and catechists.





The Kigoma Catholic Church is involved in providing social services to impoverished rural communities, since left to itself, the government in Tanzania can do too little to help. The funds from the Missionary Cooperative 2019 will support two of our ministries:

**Ministry to Orphaned Children:** Lack of funds and high level of poverty of our people challenges our Diocese to sustain two centers for orphans and street children. These two centers are home to 500 children who have been left without parents after one or both died because of AIDS, HIV infection complications or tropical disease. Having been left on their own by their impoverished extended families, these children depend entirely on the Church. At the centers we need to assure these children are fed, clothed, educated and cared for.

**Ministry to Refugees:** Because we live on the border of nations in conflict, our Diocese continues to receive an influx of refugees. We sponsor three refugee camps located in our Diocese with more than 150,000 people dependent on the Church for care. The refugee population often arrive at the camps with nothing; wounded physically, psychologically, and spiritually. As the Church, we reach out to them meet all their needs and to bring the light of Christ to wounded people.

Our own Catholic community is challenged to help the abandoned, orphaned and refugee population given that many in our Diocese only earn the equivalent of \$1.00 per day to care for their own families. It is for this reason that the Diocese of Kigoma goes out to the ends of the earth to request spiritual, financial, and material support to help fund these ministries. Thank you for your generosity and your prayers.

Website: [www.diocesekigoma.org](http://www.diocesekigoma.org)





# Bringing Home the Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 18, 2019

## Jesus as Disrupter

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When I was young, one of my favorite pictures of Jesus was one of him blessing little children. How calm and peaceful Jesus seemed, and his eyes were full of love. In later years, I have been drawn to other images and art of Jesus holding, healing, and granting mercy to his beloved children.

The image of Jesus as a nurturer is so comforting that I tend to forget that Jesus also disturbed the peace, questioned authority, and demanded complete obedience and loyalty.

For first-century Christians, following Jesus often meant leaving family and friends, civil disobedience (not considering Caesar as a god), and reimagining religious traditions.

The Christ who sows division is uncomfortable, but Christians in every century have had to speak out against evil and sin, especially when their culture's or country's practices lead people away from rather than toward God. Even here in the United States, Catholics have found themselves defending the dignity of all human life and economic and social justice for the poor, even when it meant challenging the prevailing attitudes and political climate. It's rarely easy to speak truth to power or popularity, and we have to guard against those who think they are always right or somehow above God. Jesus himself recognized that he would not always be popular, so he lifted up the two great commandments to love God and neighbor as the measure of how we should act even when those actions divide us. +

*It's difficult speaking  
truth to power,  
yet we must guard  
against those who think  
they are always right.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

I encourage you always to have prophetic courage in rejecting everything that demeans human beings, and all forms of [degrading] exploitation. Continue to show those signs of hospitality and solidarity, great and small, which can light up the lives of children and old people, migrants and refugees, in search of peace.

—Address to Caritas Internationalis,  
November 17, 2016



## Sunday Readings

### Jeremiah 38:4–6; 8–10

[King Zedekiah said,] "Take three men with you, and get Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."

### Hebrews 12:1–4

Consider how [Jesus] endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

### Luke 12:49–53

[Jesus said,] "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What is my purpose?
- Am I willing to make a stand for righteousness, even if it makes me unpopular?



# The Big Peace of Christ

By Bishop Robert F. Morneau

*"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."*

—Luke 12:51

Why did Jesus come to earth? What was his mission? Was he sent for unity or division, for life or death, for love or hate? The answer is clear: Jesus came that we might have abundant life (John 10:10). But there is a deep paradox. In Luke's Gospel—and especially in verse 51's quote from Jesus—it appears that division, not peace, is Jesus' real mission.

We should ponder this paradox. The poet T. S. Eliot provides an insight: "Beneath the bleeding hands we feel / The sharp compassion of the healer's art." The surgeon cuts away the cancer, a bloody, divisive act indeed. Yet the motive isn't to inflict pain. Rather, it is to bring healing. No false tenderness allows the healer to withhold the knife; no good parent avoids disciplining his or her child. To bring health and peace, pain is sometimes needed.

So Jesus causes division wherever there is an unhealthy, unholy union. Out of compassion, the Lord separates us from everything that keeps us from the love of the Father. This may appear cruel, but it is in fact an act of divine kindness. Shakespeare's Hamlet addresses

his mother, the queen, in these words: "I must be cruel only to be kind."

## "Graced" Division

St. John XXIII spoke often about peace—the peace of God's kingdom. In *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)*, he maintains in the encyclical that peace demands four elements: truth, freedom, charity, and justice. Jesus came to inaugurate that

kingdom; he came to express truth, to incarnate love, to foster freedom, and to promote justice. In this mission there would be much division, since people often opted for untruth, indifference, slavery, and injustice.

Everyone must distinguish graced division from divisions that are simply

destructive. The surgeon's knife separates a diseased organ from the body—a moment of grace. The slave trader separates children from their parents—a horrendous sin. Moses placed before his people a choice of life or death (Deuteronomy 30:19). We are given the same choice: to be agents of life and peace or instruments of death and chaos.

Just before Communion we pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, 'Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.'" So when we read, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but

rather division," we know that Jesus is referring to a false peace, one in which relationships are not harmonious. Jesus will have nothing to do with such unions—he will split them apart for the sake of truth.

## Examples of Christ's Peace

The human condition requires painful choices that sometimes cause division. We need but note the work of the following Christians: Martin Luther King, Jr., in his ministry to secure human rights; Thomas Merton, in his stand against nuclear war; Dorothy Day, who fought against the status quo that kept so many in radical poverty. All of them came to bring division, not peace. These disciples of Christ fought for the big peace: the kingdom of God.

Those great people showed us that God's word is a two-edged sword. We can be like them. It is a good spiritual exercise for all of us to write out a mission statement. What has God called us to do? Why have we come to this earth? Surely a task we have all been given is to bring peace and right relationships. We can, with God's help. +



## PRAYER

*Lord, you send us your Spirit  
to renew the face of the earth.  
Filled with your love,  
help me make a difference.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 19–24

**Monday, Weekday:** Jgs 2:11–19 / Mt 19:16–22

**Tuesday, St. Bernard:** Jgs 6:11–24a / Mt 19:23–30

**Wednesday, St. Pius X:** Jgs 9:6–15 / Mt 20:1–16

**Thursday, Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary:** Jgs 11:29–39a / Mt 22:1–14

**Friday, Weekday:** Ru 1:1, 3–6, 14b–16, 22 / Mt 22:34–40

**Saturday, St. Bartholomew:** Rv 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51

Bringing Home  
the Word   
August 18, 2019

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