



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, September 1, 2019  
Twenty-Second Sunday In  
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: Sing A New Church BB 413  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)  
*Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*  
 Preparation Now We Remain BB 507  
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation  
 Communion The Body Of Christ  
 Recessional: They'll Know We Are Christians BB 582

**10:00 AM**

Gathering: Lift Up Your Hearts BB 530  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)  
*O God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you. Your love is finer than life.*  
 Preparation You Have Called Us BB 646  
 You Are Near BB 434  
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation  
 Communion Only A Shadow BB 438  
 Blest Are They BB 629  
 Recessional: All The Ends Of The Earth BB 549



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 25, 2019**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$6,055.22</b>
<b>Missionary Co-op</b>	<b>\$1,630.77</b>

**PARISH GIVING**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. 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**

September 1, 2019	Property Management
September 8, 2019	Catholic University
September 15, 2019	Fuel
September 22, 2019	Priest Retirement Fund

**Out of respect, please remember to  
silence or turn off  
your cell phones during Mass.  
Thank you!**



**Suggested Weekly Contribution  
Based on Income**

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

**Suggested Weekly Contribution  
Based on a Percentage Increase**

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

## PAINT THE TOWN!

## THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

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

### *Can you help?*

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

### ST. VINCENT de PAUL BAKE SALE WALK FOR THE POOR

The St. Vincent de Paul's Annual Appeal and Bake Sale will be held on the weekend of **September 21-22, 2019** and their "Walk For The Poor" will be held on **Saturday, September 28, 2019.**

Would you like to participate in this walk? This is St. Vincent de Paul's largest fundraiser. Please consider helping us help those in need in our community and "Walk a Mile in our Shoes". If interested, please email Susan Mokray at [suziqmo@aol.com](mailto:suziqmo@aol.com) or Margaret Madeiros at [madeiros7@msn.com](mailto:madeiras7@msn.com) for details.

You can support the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Walk for the Poor by donating to this event online at <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2378>. Simply click "donate to this event" or "donate to walker".

Donations are tax deductible and donor receipts are available. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

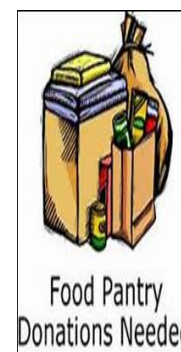
**Also, bakers are needed for our bake sale to be held the weekend of September 22-23 after all Liturgies. We are seeking talented bakers to drop off their baked goods at any of the Masses you attend and then turn around and purchase some of our other fine pastries!**



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.

***TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

**Sunday, September 1**  
**11:00 AM** Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*

**Monday, September 2**  
**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, September 3**  
**7:00 PM** Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, September 4**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN  
 ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

**Thursday, September 5**  
**8:30 AM** Adoration Begins *Newton*  
**10:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*  
**8:30 PM** Adoration Ends *Newton*

**Saturday, September 7**  
**3:00 PM** Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, September 8**  
**11:00 AM** Catechist Meeting *Plaistow*  
**11:00 AM** RCIA *Plaistow*

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, September 2**.



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

**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, September 18 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 31 ~ Vigil / 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14*  
**4:00 PM** Donald Culbert, Jr. by Jane Culbert & family  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, September 1 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14*  
**8:00 AM** Stanislaw Smardz by Grace Bukowski  
*Newton*  
**10:00 AM** Josephine M. Herbert by Joan A. Ruggiero  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, September 2 ~ Weekday**  
*1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30*  
**8:00 AM** Glen Davis by the Brotz family  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, September 3 ~ Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church**  
*1 Thes 5:1-6; 9-11; Lk 4:31-37*  
**8:00 AM** Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, September 4 ~ Weekday**  
*Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44*  
**6:30 PM** In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, September 5 ~ Teresa of Calcutta**  
*Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11*  
**8:00 AM** Robert St. Louis by Steve and Paula Fournier  
*Newton*

**Friday, September 6 ~ Weekday**  
*Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, September 7 ~ Weekday**  
*Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5 (Day)*  
*Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33 (Vigil)*  
**4:00 PM** Donald King by his wife, Barbara  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, September 8 ~ 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33*  
**8:00 AM** Stanislaw Smardz by Janice Bettencourt  
*Newton*  
**10:00 AM** Ryan McGrath by Conor Howley  
*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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Attend 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://wwmema.org/>.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **The Antczak Family** by the Burge family

**RCIA**

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](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.

**2019 RELIGIOUS JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 4:00 PM**

Saint Joseph Cathedral

The Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Celebrant

A dinner will follow in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Please RSVP to [vinson@rcbm.org](mailto:vinson@rcbm.org) or 603-663-0153 if you would like to dine with the Jubileareans after Mass.

**ADORATION**

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday  
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

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

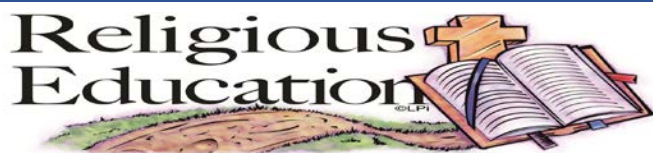
**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

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

**HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

The Rockingham VNA & Hospice is offering a comprehensive Hospice volunteer training **beginning on September 9, 2019** and continuing each Monday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon **through October 28, 2019**. To register, or for more information, call Martha Carlson, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 772-2981 or 800-540-2981, ext. 8949.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS**

The Rockingham VNA & Hospice is offering six-week interactive support groups in Epping and Exeter to explore the grieving process and provide an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one. To register, please call Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at 603-772-2981.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

**Thursday, January 23 to Saturday, January 25, 2020.**  
Registration information coming soon!

**AMAZON SMILE**

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$47.01** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity **between April 1 and June 30, 2019**.

**AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). Be sure to choose:

**ROSARY / FAMILY PRAYER HOUR**  
**LED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus leads a rosary on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 us for our family prayer hour.

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**St. Teresa Harvest Mass**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to their annual St. Teresa Harvest Mass on **Friday, September 13, 2019 at 10:30 AM**. This annual, first-of-the-new-school-year Mass, will be celebrated outdoors in honor of the school's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary which begins in September. Parishioners, former St. Joe's families, and staff are welcome. Each year the school's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class collects fresh vegetables, fruits, and breads before this Mass. Please consider bringing an item to donate. The students and families then deliver the items to local food pantries and soup kitchens. Questions? Contact [info@sjrcs.com](mailto:info@sjrcs.com) or 603-893-6811 ext 19.

**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)



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

September 1, 2019

## Christ at the Head of the Table

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In a commencement address at Northwestern University, comedian and talk-show host Stephen Colbert recalled what he learned from his experience as a member of an improvisation group. “One of the things I was taught early on,” he said, “is that you are not the most important person in the scene.” He said the best improvisation comes from a team that listens and responds to each other to “serve a common idea.” When someone

demands attention or tries to force a skit in a certain direction, the comedy falls apart. I never forgot his advice. It is appropriate in families, in workplaces, and among friends. And I confess I have had to apply it to myself on more than a few occasions.

Jesus’ parable on humility, using a wedding reception as his setting, is a caution against presuming that we know best or that we—our goals and talents—are most important. He is not advocating false modesty or a refusal to use the gifts God gives us. Rather, Jesus asks that we start from a place of humility and service. He wants us to allow others to say what they need and how we can help before we presume to know the solution or how the situation should unfold.

First and foremost, the figurative head of the table belongs to Christ, and it’s up to us to obediently go where he tells us. He will give us our place. It’s worthy to note that at the table of the Lord, every place has the same significance and everyone is a welcome guest. The important one is Christ. After that, we are all equals, regardless of who we think we are. +

*Jesus’ parable is a caution against presuming that we know best.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

One must not exaggerate the mystique of work. The person is not only work; there are other human needs that we must cultivate and consider, such as family, friends, and rest. It is important, therefore, to remember that any work must be at the service of the person, not the person in the service of work.

—Letter to conference on human development, November 23, 2017



## Sunday Readings

**Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29**

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

**Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a**

No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering.

**Luke 14:1, 7–14**

[Jesus said,] “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Rather than practicing one-upmanship, when I am with a braggart am I able to remain humble?
- Do I allow my actions, such as kindness and generosity, to speak louder than words?

# The Spirituality of Work

By Kathy Coffey

Monday is the day of the week many people dread. After the weekend, a collective sigh wafts across the world: “Ugh. Back to work.” The drill can be tedious, the routine exhausting, and the boss stupid. Work may appear to be a grubby girl cleaning the sooty fireplace, but beneath the ragged camouflage hides the beautiful Cinderella. How can we learn to see work as a productive outlet, a means of support, and God’s gift?

The problem may come from compartmentalizing our prayer and our work. Is Sunday the tidy hour given to God, separate from anything else we do? Or does our faith permeate every minute of every day, especially endless hours spent working?

To resolve this dilemma, let’s look at our model, Jesus. He was surrounded by people who worked: fishermen, farmers, tax collectors, shepherds, and soldiers. He drew his images from a woman baking, a farmer pruning vines. He worked hard, too.

Jesus’ first followers continued along that path. Paul the tentmaker wrote: “You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak” (Acts 20:34–35). The Benedictine



abbeys of the Middle Ages were founded on two cornerstones: *ora et labora*, prayer and work. The Franciscan missions in California were beehives of activity: crops were grown, grain milled, wine made, furniture carved, cloth woven, paintings and sculptures created. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux fell asleep during

formal prayer, but she found God in routine, daily occupations—her “little way.”

These examples show that we’ve always respected work, considering it essential to a full life. A subtle pecking order undercuts this respect, distinguishing “loftier” work (done with clean hands) from “lower” work (grubbier). But healthy folks relax those distinctions. An “earthy” pastor drew protests when he pitched in to wash dishes after a potluck dinner. He pleaded with those who tried to take over, “Please let me finish. It’s the only tangible thing I’ve accomplished all day.”

A local physician delights in her garden. Mucking in the dirt relieves her stress. Like many whose work is primarily mental, she finds that physical labor helps her feel whole.

More dangerous than the hierarchy of work is the suggestion that somehow we taint our spirituality with drudgery. The teaching of Jesus about the lilies of

the field (Matthew 6:28–29) prompts criticism of overwork and consumerism.

We need to understand that the paycheck fills legitimate needs, providing education, shelter, and medical care for ourselves and our children. Furthermore, work provides creativity, a social dimension, and a step beyond the self.

Anyone who has ever questioned work’s importance to the human spirit should watch preschoolers at play. Many pretend to be firefighters, parents, doctors, or truck drivers, modeling mysterious adult responsibilities. In Montessori schools, children wash dishes that aren’t dirty for the sensuous joy of the task: clean scent, warm water, popping bubbles.

We may have lost that first fascination with work through numbing repetition. But many recapture it through hobbies: working on a toy railroad or a pottery wheel seems more fun if it’s not for a paycheck.

Our outlook thus colors our work. Seeing the potential to encounter God at every turn of the page or pour of the coffeepot enlivens repetitive processes. And, if we see a job done well as an opportunity to glorify God, this attitude will add meaning to our work. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, you came to be the humble Servant of God to all people. Give me a humble heart so I may be a selfless, compassionate servant to the poor and vulnerable.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

September 2–7

**Monday, Weekday:**

1 Thes 4:13–18 / Lk 4:16–30

**Tuesday, St. Gregory the Great,**

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 / Lk 4:31–37

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

Col 1:1–8 / Lk 4:38–44

**Thursday, Weekday:**

Col 1:9–14 / Lk 5:1–11

**Friday, Weekday:**

Col 1:15–20 / Lk 5:33–39

**Saturday, Weekday:**

Col 1:21–23 / Lk 6:1–5

Bringing Home  
the Word 

September 1, 2019

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