



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 22, 2019  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;  
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving  
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation Only A Shadow BB 438

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion I Received The Living God BB 326  
Our Blessing Cup BB 362

Recessional: The Spirit Sends Us Forth BB 377

10:00 AM

Gathering: Lift Up Your Hearts BB 530

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Because The Lord Is My Shepherd  
BB 465  
Only A Shadow BB 438

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion God's Holy Gifts BB 342  
Christ Be Our Light BB 596

Recessional: Sing Of The Lord's Goodness BB 561



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](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!

**September 15, 2019**

Offertory	\$6,041.95
Fuel	\$1,675.77

### 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

September 22, 2019	Priest Retirement Fund
September 29, 2019	No Second Collection
October 6, 2019	Property Management
October 13, 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!

### 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:madeiros7@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.

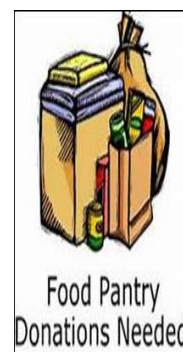
Also, bakers are needed for our bake sale to be held the weekend of September 22-23 after all Liturgies. We are seeking talented bakers to drop off their baked goods at any of the Masses you attend and then turn around and purchase some of our other fine pastries!



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 FALL...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Fall even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Fall months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, September 22**  
**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**  
**APPEAL AND BAKE SALE**

<b>11:00 AM</b>	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>

**Wednesday, September 25**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN**  
**ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

<b>7:00 PM</b>	Introduction to the Devout Life	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Thursday, September 26**

<b>8:30 AM</b>	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>1:30 PM</b>	Introduction to the Devout Life	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>8:30 PM</b>	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

**Saturday, September 28**  
**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**  
**WALK FOR THE POOR**

<b>3:00 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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**Sunday, September 29**

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	
<b>11:00 AM</b>	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>

### NO DAILY MASSES

There will be **NO** daily Masses on the following dates:  
**September 23, 24, 25, 26.**

### 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).

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, October 16 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, September 21 ~ Vigil / 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time**  
*Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13*

**4:00 PM** Frank Szczapa (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)  
by his family  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, September 22 ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13*

**8:00 AM** Frank DiChiara by Mary Anne and Jim Downs  
*Newton*

**10:00 AM** Bill Knowles by his wife, Marjorie Knowles  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, September 23 ~ Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest**  
*Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18*  
**No Mass**

**Tuesday, September 24 ~ Weekday**  
*Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21*  
**No Mass**

**Wednesday, September 25 ~ Weekday**  
*Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6*  
**No Mass**

**Thursday, September 26 ~ Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs**  
*Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9*  
**No Mass**

**Friday, September 27 ~ Vincent de Paul, Priest**  
*Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, September 28 ~ Wenceslaus, Martyr;  
Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs**

*Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45 (Day)*

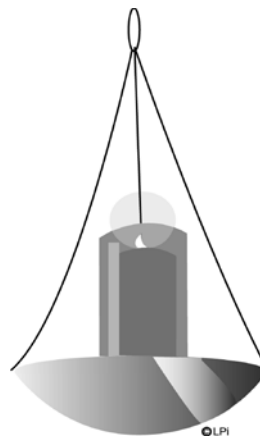
*Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31 (Vigil)*

**4:00 PM** Natalie and Phillip Gagnon by their family  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, September 29 ~ 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31*

**8:00 AM** In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel  
*Newton*

**10:00 AM** Lillian and John Murphy by Carole Lueders  
*Plaistow*



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

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Frank Szczapa**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)**  
by his family

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

**Joan Burge**

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, October 6, 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.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE

Introduction to the Devout Life begins this week. Groups will meet on **Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 PM** or on **Thursday, September 26 at 1:30 PM** for **five weeks**. Groups will meet in Room 8, downstairs in the Parish Hall.

Reminder: Read for the first week the Preface and Part 1.

If you need a book or you haven't signed up and wish to join one of the groups, please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or email Cathy at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Weekends are **October 18-20, 2019** in Laconia, NH and **December 13-15, 2019** in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit <https://www.mema.org/>.

### 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** ✠

**SAVVY CAREGIVER TRAINING**

Savvy Caregiver Training is free, professional-level training for anyone involved in caring for a family member or friend with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. The 6-week course is designed to increase caregivers' understanding of the changes experienced throughout the progression of dementia, increase your caregiving competency and to develop skills and strategies to manage day-to-day challenges. The Savvy Caregiver Program has been demonstrated to increase caregiver knowledge, skill and confidence, while reducing caregiver stress. Classes will be held on **Saturdays from 10 AM to 12:00 Noon on September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, and 26** at the Kingston Community Library, 2 Library Lane, Kingston, NH 03848. Supervised temporary care and activities during classes will be provided by Easter Seals NH for your loved ones with dementia. To register for the class and temporary case services by telephone please call (603) 324-0110 or online:

<https://www.annemarieolsenhaywardcounselingandconsulting.com/>.

**ST. ANDREW DINNERS**

St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow him. We would like to invite men in our diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner. These evenings will take place for different age groups on Fridays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Joseph House (279 Cartier Street) in Manchester. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org) or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

**October 4: Young Men Ages 13-18**

**October 18: Men Ages 19-60**

**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](mailto:CreightonFertility@yahoo.com).

**MATT FRADD CONFERENCE**

St. Michael's Parish in Exeter invites you to a one-day Conference featuring best selling author and popular speaker Matt Fradd. The Conference will take place on **Saturday, October 5**. Save the date! To learn more, go to [www.Mattfradd.com](http://www.Mattfradd.com).

**Christmas Craft Fair!**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**St. Luke the Evangelist**

**Parish Center**

**8 Atkinson Depot Road**

**(Route 121) Plaistow, NH**



Thousands of one-of-a-kind gifts from 24+ vendors of high-quality hand-crafted and hand-made items. Plus: Country Store, Silent Auction, Jewelry and our very famous Cookie Heaven. Something for every budget. Five Big Raffles: \$1,000 Cash Raffle, Wine Raffle, Penny Sale, Theme Basket Raffle, Quilt Raffle. Breakfast and lunch available. Refreshments, live entertainment, and children's activities all day. Photos with Santa Claus from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Plenty of free parking! No admission fee! Indoors—rain or shine.** Please note: the Parish Center is NOT wheelchair accessible. Questions? Call 603-382-8324.

**PROJECT RACHEL**

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org).

**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)

# ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH CENTER**

**8 ATKINSON DEPOT ROAD, PLAISTOW, NH**



**A St. Luke the Evangelist tradition!**

**Join the fun as our Parish family comes together to create lots of holiday spirit, and to raise much-needed funds for our community.**

**5 BIG Raffles:** \$1,000 Cash, Penny Sale,  
Theme Baskets, Quilt, and Wine

Silent Auction ♦ *Cookie Heaven*

*Baked Goods* ♦ Photos with Santa Claus

St. Luke's Jewelry Table ♦ *Children's Corner*

*Country Store* ♦ Live Entertainment

**Delicious refreshments for sale all day long.**

**More than 20 Juried Vendors of hand-crafted items!**



For our Christmas Craft Fair to be a success, we need a lot of help. Please look over this catalog of opportunities to see where your talents fit. Get involved in this community event as a family, a group of friends, a ministry, or, as an individual!

For more information, email Craft Fair at: [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com)



## PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE . . .

Talk about the Fair to everyone you meet or visit. Be sure to invite and entice all your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to attend **our** Christmas Craft Fair! The more people from outside St. Luke's that come to the Fair, the better it is for our Parish.

***More people = More \$\$\$\$ for the Parish and a lot more FUN!!***

### **Pursuing Persons to Publicly Promote the Fair:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Put window banners in each of your vehicles and give post cards to everyone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Find public places to display post cards – town halls, stores, libraries, sports clubs, your workplace, community notice boards, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help put up – then take down and return to church – YARD SIGNS in Plaistow, Newton and surrounding towns (*put up weekend of Oct. 19/20 and RETURN to churches by Nov. 24*).

## Silent Auction

We need A LOT of HELP with Silent Auction. We need **NEW** prizes such as small appliances, digital audio/video/photograph equipment, toys, bikes, ski or sports equipment. We also need donations of gift certificates, \$25 or larger, for weekend trips, ski and/or golf packages, tickets and/or packages to sporting and entertainment events, etc.! Donate something **you** can make, bake, do, etc. Think outside of the box!

**\*IMMEDIATE NEED\*** We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to make EASY DAYTIME phone calls to follow up on donation requests, as well as volunteers to pick-up donated items. If you can help with this, please call: JULIE LAMERE @ 603-247-4147 **ASAP**.

### **WANTED: Motivated Masses to...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Solicit a prize from your workplace. If you own a business, PLEASE DONATE A PRIZE.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Get out there and get those prizes! Visit your favorite businesses and ask them to donate Gift Certificates or Products to St. Luke's Silent Auction!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lottery Tickets! Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets. any-value scratch Lottery tickets for the Giant Lottery Tree (*expiration after Nov. 15*).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate three home-made pies for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas (*prepare pies for winning bidder to pick up from the Parish Office on a mutually agreed day*).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate a Christmas-card addressing service for up to 50 cards (*winning bidder drops off and picks up cards from the Parish Office on mutually agreed days*).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-perishable donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE now thru Nov. 7.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help arrange the Silent Auction tables (Friday, Nov. 8).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work the Silent Auction table for a shift (Saturday, Nov. 9).

## CASH RAFFLE

Six chances to win: \$1,000 1st prize, \$300 2nd prize and four \$50 3rd prizes! Tickets are only 6 for \$5.00, or \$1.00 each.

### **Vocal Volunteers are Vital! Please...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ SELL SELL SELL Lots of tickets to Lots of People!!  
Remember: more people = more money for the Parish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work the Cash Raffle table for a shift the day of the Fair, Nov. 9.





## Cookie Heaven

Bake dozens and dozens and dozens of delicious cookies. Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free cookies very welcome; please label clearly! Watch for the **Cookie Angel's** Visit!!

### **Bountiful Bakers needed to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **BAKE** cookies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bake **COOKIES**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bake **LOTS and LOTS and LOTS OF** cookies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver to Parish Center Friday, Nov. 8, 3:00pm-8:00pm.

## PENNY SALE

We need all kinds of **NEW** items for all ages: men and women – boys and girls.

Looking for gift cards (\$20 or UNDER cash value) from local restaurants, hair salons, auto service centers, nurseries, gardening centers, and more!

### **Savvy Citizens sought to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate NEW, un-used gifts taking up space in your closet – they are Treasures for the Penny Sale! Please donate any you'd like to re-gift.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit your favorite local haunts and ask them to donate an item.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work the Penny Sale table for a shift at the Fair, Saturday, Nov. 9.

## Quilt Raffle

### **Hark, Helpers! Can you...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Help sell tickets after 4pm and 10am Masses in Plaistow and/or 8am Mass in Newton any weekend in October.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help at the Quilt Raffle table for a shift at the Fair, Saturday, Nov. 9.

## Wine Raffle (absolutely no liquor please)

### **"Anyone over 21" needed to please:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate bottles of wine – red, white or sparkling—all kinds of wine!! Lots and Lots of WINE!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect empty wine boxes from the NH Liquor store.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations of wine and empty boxes can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work a shift at the Wine Raffle at the Fair, Saturday, Nov. 9.



## Theme Baskets (please LIST WHAT's IN the BASKET and its VALUE).

Please donate cellophane-wrapped, ready-to-raffle baskets with a theme. Here are some ideas: chocolate, golfers, indoor/outdoor gardening, fishing, movie night, games, books, Christmas, girls, boys, music, Thanksgiving, babies, pets, faith formation and reflection, knitting, crocheting, quilting, scrapbooking, children's creative arts, grilling, baking, and international! Get creative!

### **Thematic Thinkers wanted to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Create and donate a basket.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask businesses you frequent if they would donate a basket: hairdresser, gym/work out place, shoe store, auto service, pet store, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theme Basket donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7.



## COUNTRY STORE

Goodies for all ages are needed for men, women, boys and girls, plus Christmas/Thanksgiving items.

### **Closet Crafters please:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hand knit or crochet items: hats, mittens, afghans, sweaters, etc. Baby sizes sell fast!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make jams, jellies, canned fruit, pickles, relishes, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bake pies, breads, brownies, cupcakes, etc. (all cookies will go to Cookie Heaven).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free baked goods are welcome; please label clearly!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bring perishable items to the Parish Center Friday, Nov. 8, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

## Thrift Store (no electronics or Catholic Sacramentals please.)

We need **LIKE NEW** items for all ages: men and women, boys and girls, plus Holiday items.

### **Hunting for Treasure Hunters to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate seasonal decorations, wreaths, table décor, etc.; kitchen wares, wood-worked items, popular books, CDs, DVDs, toys and games (if no missing or broken pieces).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate NEW "As Seen on TV" items.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate Grab bags (no perishables please).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7.

## Jewelry Table

Time to clean out those jewelry boxes and drawers! Bring in all things in good condition you don't wear anymore: earrings, pins, rings, necklaces, bracelets, cuff links, tie pins, chains, watches, etc.!

### **Regalia Wranglers requested to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate new or as new jewelry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7, **or you may call Danielle Kelly to schedule a person to person delivery (603-382-6499).**

## Children's Corner

Lollipop Game, Face Painting, Cookie Decorating!!! Lots of things to keep little people entertained!

### **People with Big Hearts and Lots of Patience needed to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate the large, original-size Tootsie Roll Pops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate small- and medium-sized prizes suitable for boys or girls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donations can be brought to the PARISH OFFICE from now until Nov. 7.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help run Children's Corner activities on Saturday, Nov. 9.

## FOOD, Glorious FOOD!

Delicious food & beverages will be available all day!

### **Foraging for Fabulous Foodies to:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donate ingredients for American Chop Suey and other delicious food and beverages—watch for sign-ups in October!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help prepare food Thursday, Nov. 7 and/or Friday, Nov. 8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work a shift in the kitchen or as a cashier on Saturday, Nov. 9.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please, NO donations for the Café before **November**.



## Fair Set-up and Break-down:

We need lots MUSCLE & ENERGY -- male OR female MUSCLE & ENERGY -- young OR old MUSCLE & ENERGY -- to help set-up on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Nov. 7-9. Please fill out the enclosed sign-up sheet and watch for sign-up boards after Masses in October! **MUSCLE & ENERGY.**

**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**  
*Saturday, November 9, 2019 – 9:00 am–3:00 pm – St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Center*

**VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET**

**\* PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 20 \***

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Best time to reach you:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best day-time phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home** \_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_ **Work** \_\_\_\_

**Best evening phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home** \_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_ **Work** \_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

***THE CHRISTMAS FAIR NEEDS YOUR HELP***

We have another opportunity to work together to host another Fantastic Fair! Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations, physical assistance and participation. This Fair would not exist without YOU!

**Please indicate below where and when you can help and how you can donate.**

*You may sign up for more than one thing as long as timeframes don't overlap.*

**IMMEDIATE HELP NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION**

\_\_\_\_\_ **2 to 3 volunteers** to make easy daytime phone calls in follow-up to donation requests. (if you can help with this, please reach out to Julie Lamere ASAP by calling 603-382-8324 or emailing at [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com))

\_\_\_\_\_ **In October: 2 to 3 volunteers** to help pick up donated items in Plaistow, Newton & surrounding towns

***HELP NEEDED ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, THE DAY OF THE FAIR***

**SATURDAY, 11/9**

\_\_\_\_\_ **7am-2pm** – Help with Parking – I am available from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **2:30pm-5pm** – Monitor Silent Auction Tables as bids are tallied and/or pack items for transport

\_\_\_\_\_ **3:30pm-5pm** – Help breakdown Fair in Parish Center and/or bring items to the church

\_\_\_\_\_ **3:30pm-6pm** – We need at least TWO Trucks or vehicles with open trailer, is this YOU??

\_\_\_\_\_ **After 4pm Mass** – Additional assistance will be needed in the Parish Center

\_\_\_\_\_ **5pm-8pm** – Help with “After Fair” Silent Auction work: calling winners, organizing items, tallying, etc.

**PARISH TABLE HELP** - Please indicate your preferred shift(s) below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Early Bird 7:30 am – 9:00 am

\_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Morning 8:30 am – 11:00 am

\_\_\_\_\_ Fair Breakdown 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Time Frame, be specific \_\_\_\_\_

**If possible, I prefer to help with the:**

\_\_\_\_\_ CAFÉ Cashier

\_\_\_\_\_ CA\$H RAFFLE

\_\_\_\_\_ Children's Corner

\_\_\_\_\_ Cookie Heaven

\_\_\_\_\_ Country Store

\_\_\_\_\_ Penny Sale

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Put Me Where Needed!***

\_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry Table

\_\_\_\_\_ Quilt Raffle

\_\_\_\_\_ Silent Auction

\_\_\_\_\_ Theme Basket

\_\_\_\_\_ WINE Raffle

**\*Please arrive 5-10 minutes early & stop at Volunteer Check-In for assignment.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't stand for very long

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't climb stairs

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't lift heavy items

I will donate **non-perishable**, **NEW or LIKE NEW** items for all parish Tables – and will deliver them to the Parish Office, or either church, from NOW up until Sunday, 11/3:

**Silent Auction – Penny Sale – Country Store – Jewelry – Wine Raffle – Children's Corner**

I will donate **perishable** items and deliver them **DIRECTLY to the Parish Center** on Friday, 11/8 from 3pm-8pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Country Store:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cookie Heaven:** BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, and BAKE more cookies!

\_\_\_\_\_ **St. Luke's Café:** Please watch for special sign-ups in October!

## Please indicate below where and when you can help during the week PRIOR to the Fair

*You may sign up for more than one thing as long as timeframes don't overlap.*

*Plan to arrive 5-10 minutes before your time slot.*

### **SUNDAY, 11/3, the week BEFORE the Fair**

\_\_\_\_\_ **After 8am Mass** – DRIVE donations from Newton Church to Parish Office in Plaistow.

\_\_\_\_\_ **After 10am Mass** – CARRY donations from Plaistow Church to Parish Office.

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### **WEDNESDAY, 11/6**

#### **Stage Decoration & Banner Hanging Heroes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3pm-5pm** – Three (3) volunteers are needed to assist the Fair Lead with some initial set-up. Volunteers must be willing and able to: carry a few awkward, but not heavy, items and boxes from various places and negotiate stairs. We will move some lightweight items around as well. This group will then split: one team will hang banners in the gym. The other team will “decorate” the stage with 2 Christmas trees, garland, flowers and a wreath. Volunteers must be comfortable climbing & using a step ladder.

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**THURSDAY, 11/7** *Please note that all jobs listed below involve stairs, walking, carrying, paying attention, teamwork, communication and a friendly “can-do” spirit. Also, Fair set-up is not predictable; it may go faster, or slower, than anticipated. Flexibility is key.*

#### **Trucks/Vehicle with open trailer**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3pm-6pm** – We could use two (2) trucks and/or vehicles with open trailer, anyone??

#### **Work Area Set-up**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3pm-4pm** – Two (2) volunteers are needed to set up the Volunteer Check-In Area. Volunteers must be able to: sweep; carry two 6' lightweight plastic tables, 3 chairs and a trash can to the area; as well as tape an extension cord and power strip to the floor.

#### **Super Schlepers of Seasonal Stuff**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3pm-4:30pm** – Four (4) volunteers are needed to help gather necessary items. Volunteers must be willing and able to: carry tables in a variety of sizes and weights as well as other items from various places, negotiate stairs, and place the items in the Café Holding Area.

#### **Transporters of Treasures**

\_\_\_\_\_ **4:30pm-6pm** – Four (4) volunteers to load lots of items onto a truck/trailer from the Parish Office and unload them into the Parish Center gym and then over to the correct Parish tables as labeled.

#### **Conveyers of Collections**

\_\_\_\_\_ **5pm-6pm** – Four (4) people needed to help unload items from vehicles to the Country Store & Silent Auction areas. Volunteers must be able to pay attention to which items go where.

#### **Distributors of Display Blocks and Chairs**

\_\_\_\_\_ **5pm-6pm** – Four (4) volunteers to distribute chairs & wooden display blocks around the gym as noted on map.

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### **FRIDAY, 11/8**

#### **Between 12 Noon – 8pm**

\_\_\_\_\_ Help set-up Parish Tables: I am available from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Help set-up Silent Auction: I am available from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Between 12 Noon – 8pm**

\_\_\_\_\_ Hold doors as vendors come in & out of Parish Center: I am available from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Café Set-up & Decoration**

\_\_\_\_\_ **3pm-4pm** Two (2) volunteers to assist with decorating the café area. No heavy lifting required.

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### **SATURDAY, 11/9** **\*\*SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ALL SATURDAY OPPORTUNITIES\*\***

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### **SUNDAY, 11/10**

\_\_\_\_\_ **9:00am-12:30pm** – Assist distributing Silent Auction Items to winning bidders in Plaistow Parish Hall.

\_\_\_\_\_ **11:00am-12:30pm** – Help hand out Raffle Prizes to winners in the RE Office of Plaistow Parish Hall.

*If you would like more information about anything fair-related, please email: [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com).*



# BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER!

Learn more about your faith while serving your community at Sunday Mass. Just visit the Sacristy in Church before Mass and speak to Father Albert. All Servers begin as “observers” and gradually learn what Servers do during Mass.

## ALL AGES WELCOME!

To become an Altar Server, you must be in the third grade or higher, and have received first Eucharist. Obtain Parent permission form from Father Albert. Parents – call 382-8324 for more information or email [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net).



# Want to help out at Sunday Mass?

We are looking for **KIDS,**  
**YOUTH** and **FAMILIES**  
to serve as:

- **READERS** (sharing the Word of God at Mass)
- **ALTAR SERVERS** (helping in the sanctuary)
- **USHERS** (helping take up the collection)
- **GREETERS** (welcoming people to Church & handing out the Bulletin)

***Interested?***

See Father Albert for more information.

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

This week we hear a challenging parable about a rich man who is cheated by his steward. After squandering his master's property, the steward makes amends with his master's debtors by lowering their debts. The steward hopes that this goodwill offering will help repair friendships with those in the community he has lied to. The master commends the steward for acting wisely. Jesus reiterates that we should strive to be trustworthy in both big ways and small so that we develop honest habits.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** In this week's class, your child learned about the different ways people serve at Church. Talk to your child about some of the people who help at Mass, and what he or she can do to help. The class discussed how they can follow Jesus every day. Ask your child to share some ways that he or she can follow Jesus. Practice making the Sign of the Cross together as you start and end prayers together this week.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** This week's class focused on the Mass. The children read a story about a girl named Lucy and her family's trip to Mass. The children shared their stories of going to Mass, and acted out some of the parts of the Mass together. Talk to your child about how he or she can show love for God. Ask your child to show you the Mass booklet he or she made in class, and make plans to bring it with you to Mass next week.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child learned about Pope Francis. The children discussed how Pope Francis encourages us to take care of our planet and to show mercy to others. Both Pope Francis and St. Teresa of Calcutta are great examples of people who show mercy to the poor.

Ask your child what it means to him or her to show mercy. Share ways that you can both try to be faithful to God in big and small ways this week.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** The children learned the importance of honesty, especially in cases when they are pressured by others to do something wrong. The class read a choose-your-own adventure story featuring Sophie who faces a dilemma when Maddie and some popular girls urge her to shoplift. Talk to your child about the different outcomes of the story, and the consequences of Sophie's decisions to live with the guilt or tell the truth. Discuss the importance of honesty and integrity for building a strong and trusting community, as Jesus wants us to do in our church and beyond.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** Your child discussed Pope Francis's mission to care for creation and all its members. Your child learned how Pope Francis shares many goals with St. Francis of Assisi, including showing love and mercy to the poor. The class presented a play of today's Gospel story of the steward who cheats with his master's money, and learned about the prophet Amos who spoke out against people who took advantage of the poor. Ask your child how he or she is inspired by Pope Francis, and ways he or she can follow his example daily.

## Pray Together

After your conversation, sit quietly for a few moments as you reflect on what each member of your family has shared. Close your time together in prayer by taking turns offering the names of the people who serve your parish and help your family. Thank God for these people's presence in your lives.

# Restore • Renew • Proclaim

*the Hope that is Christ*



The Diocese of Manchester is in the process of continuing to strengthen and renew faith formation in our parish, school and home school communities. Through this process we are being called anew to “Restore, Renew and Proclaim the Hope that is Christ.”

The goal is to make lifelong faith formation a priority and a reality throughout the diocese. This requires a few things:

- Making adult faith formation a priority in our parishes, which includes formation of catechists, parents and the entire adult community.
- Strengthening our youth ministry programs to include all teens of high school age.
- Reimagining our sacrament preparation processes to include a return to celebrating the sacraments of initiation in their **restored order**: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.

## What is Lifelong Faith Formation?

Lifelong faith formation is a process of growing in the faith that begins with baptism. Immersed in the life of the Trinity, we are adopted sons and daughters of God our Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. Like all human relationships, developing and deepening our relationship with the Trinity happens gradually and over time. Consequently, lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship and knowledge of God, Jesus and the Spirit; to enhance our understanding of Scripture, Tradition and doctrines of our faith; and to sustain us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## What does restored order of the Sacraments mean?

Restored order means returning the three sacraments of Christian initiation to the logical order in which they were designed to be celebrated: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Church, it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in this sequence.

## Why is the Diocese of Manchester changing the age of Confirmation?

By placing Confirmation at this age, the Diocese of Manchester will be following the natural sequence of the sacraments of Christian initiation. In addition, by placing Confirmation **prior to the reception of First Eucharist** it makes it easier to view the Eucharist as the summit of Christian initiation.

## How is the celebration of Confirmation going to change in the Diocese of Manchester?

**By 2021, the standard age of Confirmation is going to be third grade, and Confirmation will be celebrated at the same liturgy as First Communion.** As a result, the preparation and reception of the sacraments of initiation throughout the Diocese of Manchester will be Baptism in infancy, Confirmation and Eucharist in third grade. Although not a sacrament of initiation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received in the second grade.

## What are the benefits of restored order?

First, it will highlight that the Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the culmination of Christian initiation. Secondly, with the reception of grace of the Holy Spirit at a younger age, it will give children greater courage and guidance in facing the increasing difficulties of living a Christian life. Finally, it will allow for more opportunities for parents to take greater responsibility in their role as the primary educators of their children.



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
September 22, 2019

## How Do We Treat the Poor?

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When Pope Francis was elected, Catholics were inspired by his humility and simplicity. When he bowed before the people in St. Peter's Square and asked for their prayers, the little crowd gathered around the TV in the basement of the Catholic Center was moved to tears. When he announced that he would continue living in the guesthouse rather than the papal apartments and eat in the cafeteria, we cheered. But Pope Francis also challenged us. He wanted us to examine how we treated the poor and marginalized of the world. In his

encyclical *Laudato Si'*, he confronted us with the understanding that our misuse of the environment impacted the poor first of all and that we could no longer continue to consume our natural resources in a reckless and greedy fashion.

The prophet Amos has some harsh words for those who exploit the poor. In the Old Testament, care for the widow, orphan, and stranger—the poorest of the poor—were among the most righteous things a person could do. Many prophets pointed to the failure to do so as a sign that the people had turned from the Lord and, in their sin, cared only for themselves. More recent figures who also have indicated that the measure of a society is the way they treat their poorest members include Ghandi, St. John Paul II, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Christ commanded us to love one another. Surely this includes seeing that all have the basic necessities of life, even if that means we don't get everything we want. +

***Pope Francis wants us to examine how we treat the poor and the marginalized.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

The level of progress in a society is measured by its capacity to safeguard life.... Death from malnutrition is an attack on life. Terrorism, war, violence; so is euthanasia. Loving life means always taking care of the other, wanting the best for him, cultivating and respecting her transcendent dignity.

—Address to Science and Life Association, May 30, 2015



## Sunday Readings

### Amos 8:4–7

The LORD has sworn: ...Never will I forget a thing [the evildoers] have done!

### 1 Timothy 2:1–8

There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human.

### Luke 16:1–13 or 16:10–13

[Jesus said,] "The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- "No servant can serve two masters." What are some of the "masters" in my life?
- Do I gloss over small misdeeds and white lies instead of being "trustworthy in very small matters"?



# Exploring Our Roots

By Richard Rohr, OFM

How often have we heard or read the words over the years: “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). We’re created in God’s image. In other words, our family of origin is divine.

Perhaps we’ve heard those words so often that we don’t receive an existential shock anymore. Beginning with the opening lines of the Old Testament, God tells us that we are fundamentally good and that we have a foundational identity with God. This is nothing less than extraordinary!

To put it differently, God extends an invitation to us. God seeks to give away God, but it is with great difficulty! You would think the invitation would be readily accepted, but not so. One of the common responses to God’s offering of self is, “Lord, I am not worthy.” It may sound humble, even respectful. But it can also be the way we avoid God’s call.

Not so the young virgin from Nazareth. When the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God, this humble teenager from a backwater town doesn’t run away from God by protesting unworthiness. No, Mary just wants to understand how she can bear a son under such unlikely circumstances. Once she realizes how God plans to work through



her, her openness to the invitation is extraordinary. She becomes the archetype of receptivity. Mary is the one perfect vessel who knows how to say an unquestioning yes to God’s invitation.

## Trusting God’s Goodness

Most of us don’t accept God’s invitations so readily. Unlike Mary, we question our unworthiness, refusing to believe that God is speaking to us. Meanwhile, God is trying to tell us that there is nothing we need to earn, nothing we can attain or accomplish, nothing to work up to. We’ve already “got it” by being a part of the family of God. Our relationship with God is about awakening rather than accomplishing, realizing rather than performing. Trust is the issue, and that becomes the biblical concept of faith. It’s all about confidence that God could love us enough. It’s all about confidence in God’s goodness.

This sense of being inadequate, of not being enough is what I call Original Shame, rather than the familiar Original Sin. As God’s creatures we’re a mixed blessing. We’re filled with contradictions and mystery, darkness and light. But God, who has taken the risk of creating freedom inside us, is always gracious. God persists in loving us—mixed blessings that we are—in all our unworthiness.

## New Kind of Fame

What is God seeking from us? God isn’t looking for servants, slaves, or workers, for contestants to play the game or jump through hoops. God is simply looking for images that can bear the mystery of the glory and the darkness of life. God invites us, his creatures, to a relationship of love. What God wants are icons who will communicate who God is, what God is about.

Once we accept and believe that we’re made in God’s image, we have found our identity. We don’t have to be so preoccupied with roles and titles, with clothing, cars, and all the things the world holds up as ideals. We don’t need material things to assure us that we’re special.

We know we’re radically significant by being children of the Lord. We have less need to be visible or showy, to make a name for ourselves, to take our place in history. We no longer need our fifteen minutes of fame—because we know we’re famous! Our family of origin is divine. You don’t get much better than that. +



*Lord, I am grateful for the gift of life. Help me to be a wise and responsible person in the world.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

September 23–28

**Monday**, St. Pius of Pietrelcina:  
Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18

**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
Ezr 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 / Lk 8:19–21

**Wednesday**, Weekday:  
Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9

**Friday**, St. Vincent de Paul:  
Hg 2:1–9 / Lk 9:18–22

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45