



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, October 20, 2019  
Twenty-Ninth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: Be Now My Vision BB 396

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
O taste and see the goodness of the  
Lord.*

Preparation: Blest Are They BB 629

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

Communion: Take And Eat BB 360

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia BB 167

10:00 AM

Gathering: Glory And Praise To Our God BB 546

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid; of whom  
should I be afraid.*

Preparation: Be Thou My Vision BB 396  
We Remember BB 494

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

Communion: Blest Are They BB 629  
Jesus, Come To Us BB 394

Recessional: Sing A Joyful Song BB 538



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/Plastow** 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!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
OCTOBER 13, 2019  
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

### 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

October 20, 2019	World Mission Sunday
October 27, 2019	Archdiocese / Military Service
November 1, 2019	All Saints Day
November 3, 2019	Property Management

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.**

#### ALL SAINTS DAY ~ ALL SOULS DAY

All Saints Day is a holy day of obligation. Liturgies will be celebrated on **Thursday, October 31 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow** (NO 8:00 AM Mass in Newton that day) and on **Friday, November 1 at 8:00 AM in Newton**. Because All Souls Day falls on a Saturday this year, all deceased parishioners will be remembered at the 4:00 PM Mass in Plaistow.



ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

#### RIDES NEEDED

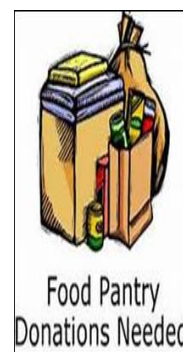
A parishioner is in need of rides to medical appointments. If you can help, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

#### TAI CHI

Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups. Classes are on **Mondays at 9:00 AM** and **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM** in the Plaistow Church Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per class, and for seniors on a fixed income, the cost is \$3.00 per class.

#### **ST. LUKE 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, October 20**  
**11:00 AM** Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*  
**11:00 AM** RCIA *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, October 23**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN**  
**ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**  
**7:00 PM** Introduction to the Devout Life *Plaistow*

**Thursday, October 24**  
**8:30 AM** Adoration Begins *Newton*  
**9:00 AM** Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*  
**1:30 PM** Introduction to the Devout Life *Plaistow*  
**8:30 PM** Adoration Ends *Newton*

**Saturday, October 26**  
**3:00 PM** **NO** Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, October 27**  
**10:00 AM** Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*  
**11:00 AM** RCIA *Plaistow*  
**12:00 PM** Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, October 19 ~ Vigil / 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time**  
*Ex 17:8-13; 2 Tm 3:14—4:2; Lk 18:1-8*  
**4:00 PM** Daniel O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, October 20 ~ 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Ex 17:8-13; 2 Tm 3:14—4:2; Lk 18:1-8*  
**8:00 AM** Stanislaus Smardz by Jim & Mary Anne Downs  
*Newton*  
**10:00 AM** In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, October 21 ~ Weekday**  
*Rom 4:20-25; Lk 12:13-21*  
**8:00 AM** Chet Connors by Peggy Connors  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, October 22 ~ John Paul II, Pope**  
*Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Lk 12:35-38*  
**8:00 AM** Rosemary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, October 23 ~ John of Capistrano, Priest**  
*Rom 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-48*  
**6:30 PM** Joan Foster by her friends from the  
 Holy Angels Women's Guild  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, October 24 ~ Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop**  
*Rom 6:19-23; Lk 12:49-53*  
**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Friday, October 25 ~ Weekday**  
*Rom 7:18-25a; Lk 12:54-59*  
*No Mass*

**Saturday, October 26 ~ Weekday**  
*Rom 8:1-11; Lk 13:1-9 (Day)*  
*Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14 (Vigil)*  
**4:00 PM** Kevin Gallant (Birthday Remembrance)  
 by Patricia Gallant and family  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, October 27 ~ 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14*  
**8:00 AM** Margaret and Fred Nappi by the Stanley family  
*Newton*  
**10:00 AM** Deceased Family Members of  
 Charles and Mary Jesionowski  
 by their daughter, Sonia Tatarka  
*Plaistow*

**There is NO Sacrament of Reconciliation in Plaistow on Saturday, October 26.**

**St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society**



Thanks, everyone, for participating in our Bake Sale recently. Your purchases (and donations!) helped a young mother with rent and an outstanding utility bill. And the Walk for the Poor was a great success. Thanks for walking or donating!

Don't forget to "Drop Your Dollar" the next time you're at Mass. It may not seem like much to you, but to those we help, it makes a huge difference in their lives.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we head into the colder months and food and fuel may become an issue with neighbors and friends.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 20 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.**

### 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 ✠

### 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.

### 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, November 3, 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.

### ST. KATHRYN RELIGIOUS GOODS

Saint Kathryn Religious Goods, home to an ever-growing and rich assortment of Catholic books, medals, rosaries, statues, and sacred vessels, has transitioned from its summer schedule into its longer fall, winter, and spring hours. Now you have more time to find the right gift for an upcoming sacrament celebration or any other occasion! Located on the grounds of Saint Kathryn Parish, 4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH, they are open Monday to Thursday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Saturday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Find them on Facebook, Instagram, [www.stkathryns.org/store](http://www.stkathryns.org/store), or give them a call at 603-595-4463 with any questions.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Weekend is **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** ✠

**TO PARENTS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS**

**Circle Of Care Safe Environment Lessons**

Please be advised that on **Sunday, October 27, 2019** we will incorporate into our regular time with the children their annual safe environment lesson that is a necessary part of our Program.

If you have any questions, please call Joyce at 382-8324, ext. 303, or email her at [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net). Thank you.

**CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
OPEN HOUSE**

You are invited to learn what Central Catholic High School can do to help you be successful. During the Open House on **Sunday, October 27 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM**, you will be able to tour the campus, meet with faculty, students, coaches, advisors, and campus ministers, and learn why its students excel academically, athletically, spiritually, and personally. For more information about Central Catholic High School, please go to [www.centralcatholic.net](http://www.centralcatholic.net).

**EXPERIENCE GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE  
For Youth and Young Adults**

Do you feel not good enough? Feel unworthy? You are not alone! You are invited to a full day of events on **Saturday, November 16, 2019** at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, NH. There will be Mass, Keynote speaker Paul J. Kim with special guest speakers Christopher Duffley, Caitlin Sica, Father Paul Gousse, and Spencer Gregory, Praise and Worship music from *Delmore Worship*, Adoration, Lunch, and more! Walk away feeling good and worthy. Because we know you are! For more information visit [www.catholicnh.org/summit](http://www.catholicnh.org/summit) or contact Kelly Goudreau at [kgoudreau@rcbm.org](mailto:kgoudreau@rcbm.org)

**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).

**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 382-8324.

**CASH RAFFLE TICKETS**

The Cash Raffle needs lots and lots and lots of tickets sold to parishioners and especially to people outside the parish. If we sell all of our tickets, we'll raise **\$4,500** for St. Luke's!!! If you have questions, or would like to help at our Christmas Craft Fair, please send a message to [stlukenhfair@gmail.com](mailto:stlukenhfair@gmail.com) or leave a message for Julie Lamere at the Parish Office: 603-382-8324. Thank you!

**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)



# Maybe ....

## it's time

### To re-connect with your Church

### To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin  
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

# Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

**Maybe it's your time.**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow  
603 382 8324. [www.stlukenh.org](http://www.stlukenh.org)

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus exalts a widow who persistently petitions for her needs. The unjust judge's softening of heart dramatizes God's willingness to respond to our frequent prayers. Asking God for what we want and need will help us clarify what is really important. This week provides a good opportunity to review how your family lives and prays together.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** This week's lesson focused on persistence and prayer. Consider adding a new prayer time to your child's daily routine. Use this time to review the day and its highs and lows. Lead your child in prayers for family and friends, parents and teachers, our leaders, the weakest among us, and for yourselves.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Ask your child to tell you about all the people who help your family. Have your child tell you the story of the woman who kept asking for help. Discuss the importance of asking for help when help is needed, and why God wants us all to ask for help. Look at the prayer book your child has made and promise to say the morning prayer together every day this week.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Children of this age do a lot of asking. To build on the experience of the lesson, talk about what family members ask for over and over again—toys, games, pets, or snacks. Talk about how Jesus wants us all to pray for what we need. This week is also a good time to commit to a family

prayer time once a day—mornings, mealtimes, or in the evenings. Ask your child to teach your family the five finger prayer he or she learned in class or include the petitions he or she wrote during the lesson.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** This week's session helped your child distinguish between a *need* and a *want*. Your child learned to appreciate God's willingness to answer prayers. Talk about things your family needs and also talk about things your family may want. Ask your youngster about how Moses served as a mediator to help God's People. Ask your young person to tell the family what kinds of prayer are found in the Bible. Talk about why it is important to keep on praying.

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** This week's lesson pointed out the importance of being persistent in life and in prayer. The class looked at people who were persistent and at the results of their persistence. Your child learned how to be persistent in responding to situations in a Christian way. Talk about situations in your family that called for persistence—in school, at work, in sports, in relationships with others. Talk about ways your family can be persistent in your relationships with God and the Church.

### Pray Together

The Gospel for the week shows that God expects all to be persistent in prayer and to ask God for help. Set aside a few minutes each day for sharing family prayers of petition. After each petition, the whole family can respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

October 20, 2019

## Keeping the Faith in a Land of Choices

By Mary Katharine Deeley

“Remain faithful to what you have learned and believe.” This was a favorite motto of a former director of the Catholic center where I work. Students who had just entered college and graduating seniors heard many reflections and homilies on this phrase because he felt it was one of the best pieces of advice he could give them. And so it is for us. The world is a complex place. Our choices are many, from the trivial (What breakfast cereal should I buy?) to the vitally important (How do I uphold the

dignity of every human person?). We see great beauty in creation and great evil in its wanton destruction for profit. There are those who think so little of human life that they bomb public places in order to destroy their enemies and those who think so much of life that they run into burning buildings or minister to the poorest and least.

In some cases, our path is crystal clear. In other cases, competing goods push and pull us in different directions. How do we make up our minds? This is where the teaching of Jesus and the Church, our prayer, and our conscience come together. Being faithful to what we believe gives us the foundation for good decisions in complex situations. It makes it possible for us to pass on the faith to the next generation and to the world. Doing this hard work is not always convenient. But this good news is what the world needs and is our path and guide as well. +

## Sunday Readings

### Exodus 17:8–13

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight.

### 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2

Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

### Luke 18:1–8

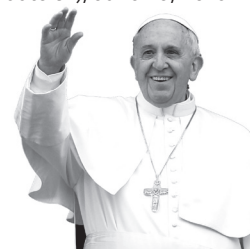
[Jesus said,] “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

*Sometimes our path is crystal clear. In other cases, competing goods pull us in different directions.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, creation is projected toward divinization, toward the holy wedding feast, toward unification with the Creator himself.

—On Care for Our Common Home (*Laudato si’*), June 18, 2015



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When faced with difficult decisions, do I pray for God’s guidance?
- Is remaining faithful to my Catholic beliefs a guiding principle for me?



# Was Jesus a Tree Hugger? Ecology and Faith

By Jim and  
Susan Vogt

Climate change is a hot topic these days, but what does it have to do with faith? “Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth....God looked at

everything he had made, and found it very good” (Genesis 1:28, 31). “The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it” (Genesis 2:15).

How are we to cultivate and take care of the earth? Scripture can’t mean that everyone must become farmers! It means, however, that we all have a responsibility to care for the earth. This is easy to agree to in theory. After all, it feels wholesome to commit to caring for the earth. Being good stewards of creation is holy, natural, and reasonable—but not as easy as it sounds. Consider the following:

Many scientists identify using automobiles as the single most environment-damaging consumer behavior, so Jim urged Susan to take the bus to work. He often rode it himself. After all, we live on a bus line, and it would be “good for Susan’s soul.” Jim explained that Susan could use the time to read, meditate, and commune with those who lack transportation choices.



But this quadrupled a twenty-minute commute, once transfers and waiting were factored in.

Vegetable gardening is good stewardship. It provides fresh healthy food, saves money and trips to the store, and can be satisfying to the spirit, not to mention good exercise. (Assuming

you don’t overdo it and have to go to a chiropractor afterward, as Susan once did.) But what about those pesky critters that can delete the fruits of our hard work more quickly than we can delete spam? Should we use pesticides on crops, poison the moles, or spend extra on organic remedies? What if our kids won’t eat the apples because they don’t look as pretty as the ones in the store?

There are plenty of other conundrums for conscientious Christians who want to honor God’s creation by preserving and protecting it. In the end, many of us tire of the complexity and mixed messages, throw up our hands, and murmur, “What difference will it make to the environment if I recycle a few soda cans each week?”

What each of us does, however, *can* make a difference. First, we must take personal responsibility for our actions. Whether it’s refraining from lying, caring for those in need, or respecting the environment, our own actions are

the ones we control. We must start by responding consistently to God’s call to be faithful stewards of creation. In addition, there is the dimension of witness. Who knows when someone might see our small efforts at recycling and decide to do something similar?

Then there is the reality that, as members of the human community, we are not isolated beings dependent only on ourselves. Instead of “*What difference will my action make?*” we might ask, “*What if everyone took my action?*” What if all people just threw their soda cans into the trash? What if all people recycled them? The “everyone” test can often help us judge more clearly.

Perhaps we can revisit the maxim “What would Jesus do?” and ask, “Was Jesus an environmentalist?” Well, he did walk a lot, ate organic and local, and didn’t depend on electricity. But he didn’t have a choice. We do. Jesus sent us the Spirit to breathe new life into our troubled souls and world. Let us not pollute the gift of creation lest it die on our watch—or on that of our children’s children. +



*Lord, I am grateful that you listen to me. Make my whole life a prayer of thanksgiving in honor of your goodness and love.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

October 21–26

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Rom 4:20–25 / Lk 12:13–21


**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Rom 5:12, 15b, 17–19, 20b–21 /  
Lk 12:35–38

**Wednesday, Weekday:**  
Rom 6:12–18 / Lk 12:39–48

**Thursday, Weekday:**  
Rom 6:19–23 / Lk 12:49–53

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Rom 7:18–25a / Lk 12:54–59

**Saturday, Weekday:**  
Rom 8:1–11 / Lk 13:1–9

Bringing Home  
the Word   
October 20, 2019

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