



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, October 27, 2019
Thirtieth Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

**4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM**

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 303

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation You Are Mine BB 456

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Eye Has Not Seen BB 461
The Supper Of The Lord BB 351

Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 381

✠ 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!

October 13, 2019

**Offertory \$6,761.46
Fuel \$1,562.00**

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
OCTOBER 20, 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 27, 2019 Archdiocese / Military Service
November 1, 2019 All Saints Day

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.



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

**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.

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.

THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD



Throughout **November**, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be open near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.

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.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, October 27

11:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, October 30
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
 ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

Thursday, October 31

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
 9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
 8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, November 2

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, November 3

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Parent/Student Meeting (Gr. 2)
 For Reconciliation *Plaistow*

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, October 26 ~ Vigil / 30th Sunday in Ord. Time
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14
 4:00 PM Kevin Gallant (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Patricia Gallant and family
Plaistow

Sunday, October 27 ~ 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; 2 Tim 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

Monday, October 28 ~ Simon and Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16
 8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, October 29 ~ Weekday
Rom 8:18-25; Lk 13:18-21
 8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, October 30 ~ Weekday
Rom 8:26-30; Lk 13:22-30
 6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Thursday, October 31 ~ Weekday
Rom 8:31b-39; Lk 1:31-35 (Day)
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a (Vigil)
 6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Friday, November 1 ~ All Saints
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
 8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Saturday, November 2 ~ All Souls
Wis 3:1-9; Rom 5:5-11; Jn 6:37-40 (Day)
Wis 11:22—12:2; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1-10 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM All Deceased Parishioners
Plaistow

Sunday, November 3 ~ 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 11:22—12:2; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1-10
 8:00 AM Walter Halko (10th Anniversary)
 by Janice Bettencourt
Newton
 10:00 AM Deceased Family Members of
 Charles and Mary Jesionowski
 by their daughter, Sonia Tatarka
Plaistow

**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.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **John Marciano** by his 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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

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

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, 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.

ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, AND ALTAR SERVERS!
Scheduling for November 30/December 1, 2019 through February 23, 2020

Please contact Jeanne at **382-4760** or jmsul@myfairpoint.net by **November 11** and let her know if there are weekends when you will not be available to serve, or at which you want to serve. In your emails or phone calls, please include the Mass at which you serve and your ministry. **Even though all Masses from Christmas Eve through January 1 will be scheduled via a sign-up board at Church**, it would help Jeanne if you would let her know at which Masses during that time you would like to serve or for which you would not be available (just in case phone calls need to be made after the sign-ups). **Christmas Masses this year will be on December 24 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and 6:30 PM in Newton, and on December 25 at 9:00 AM in Newton.** The Masses for the Octave, Mary, Mother of God, will be on **December 31 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and January 1 at 9:00 AM in Newton.** Your help is greatly appreciated. God bless you all for the wonderful work you do for St. Luke's.

ADORATION

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

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

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

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

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

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324	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 ✂



DON'T FORGET....
Turn your clocks back one hour
before going to bed on
Saturday, November 2!

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. Thank you.

SJRCS OPEN HOUSE

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to their Open House & Alumni Welcome on **Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM**. There will be tours, classroom visits, student demonstrations, and refreshments. The school will also celebrate its 60th anniversary with a display of school history. Prospective families, parishioners, former St. Joe's families, and staff are welcome. Questions? Contact info@sjrcs.com or 603-893-6811 x 19.

MEN'S RETREAT

**35th Annual Vita Nova Men's Retreat 2020
January 3-5, 2020**

The 35th Annual Vita Nova Men's Retreat, led by Fr. Jeff Paveglio, will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH on the weekend of **January 3-5, 2020**. Register at www.vitanova.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.

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 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. Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net, or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html



Feast of All Saints—

All Saints Day

As the Church year comes to a close and nature itself begins slowly to fade from Fall glory to the browns of winter-time, the Church prepares to celebrate two great feasts: **All Saints and All Souls**. We remember on those days those people who have rested in peace with God and have entered heaven's Banquet. Saints, official and unofficial, pray for and with us as we continue our earthly journey.

All Saints Day has been celebrated in the Church since 731 AD, when Pope Gregory III consecrated a chapel at Saint Peter's in the Vatican in honor of all the Saints. In all Churches throughout the world, All Saints Day is a special day of prayer and joy - a day when we celebrate our heroes in the Christian Faith.

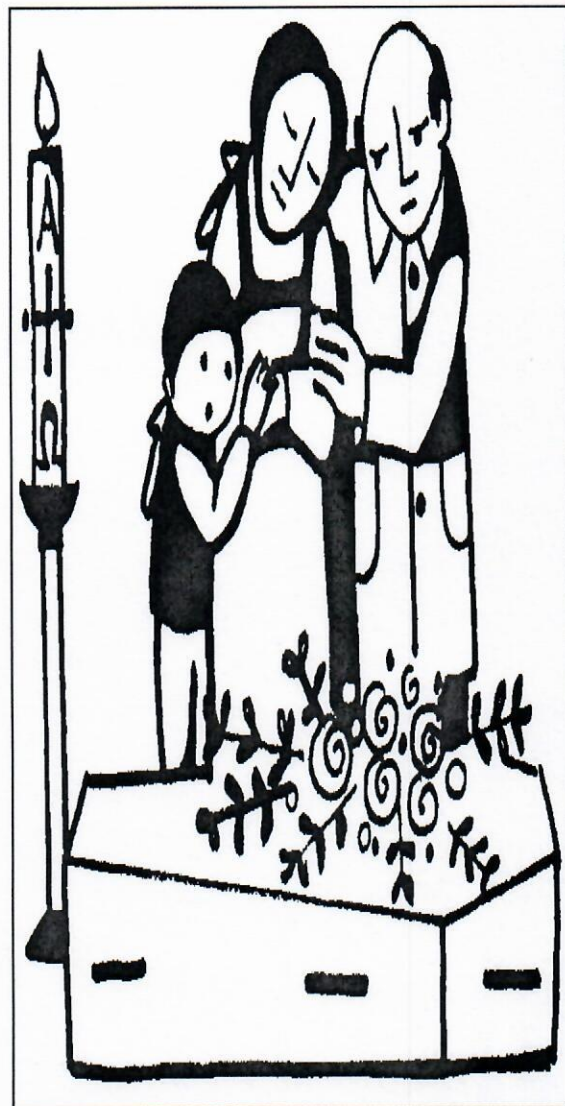
All Saints Day is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. We will celebrate a Vigil Liturgy on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow, and a Liturgy on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 at 8 am in Newton.



Note that there will **NOT** be an 8 am Liturgy celebrated in Newton on Thursday. Eucharistic Adoration will be held as usual in Newton on Thursday from 8:30 am to 8:30 PM.

All Souls Day

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) comes as a well-meaning liturgical afterthought to that of All Saints. Having commemorated all the blessed who enjoy the face of God in their death, we turn our thoughts to the other souls who await the fullness of God's glory. The sequence of these two feasts implies a belief that those who have lived lives of holiness enjoy God's presence and can intercede for us before the throne of God. These are the dead who await the call to resurrection and eternal bliss with God, and we remember every November 2 members of our families, friends, the lonely and forgotten, and public figures who have touched our lives. On this day we pray that God will have mercy on them and grant them the vision of blessedness for which they longed.



All Souls Day celebrates our union with the faithful of the Church in every place and beyond all time. **Because November 2 falls on a Saturday this year, we will not gather for an All Soul's Liturgy.** We will instead remember and pray for our deceased parishioners in a special way at the Liturgies on November 2-3.

The Book of the Names of the Dead

Continuing throughout November, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be opened at the near the Baptismal Font for the parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.



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

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Pharisees were the religion teachers of Jesus' time. They taught Jews their religious traditions and challenged them to apply the Law to their lives. Jesus had more in common with the Pharisees than with any other religious group of his day. In Sunday's Gospel story, Jesus is not criticizing the values and beliefs of a whole religious group. He is criticizing an individual Pharisee's self-righteousness. In Jesus' time, few people liked tax collectors because they collaborated with the Roman government. Jesus' story challenges us to examine how we view others and how God views us. In God's eyes, everybody is somebody.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child spent time looking at likenesses and differences—in plants, in homes, and in people. Jesus' message is that all people are important. Ask to see your child's lesson booklet, and let the child tell you about the lesson. Share with your child some ways your family can show that all people are children of God.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week's session taught your child to recognize that all people are important because God loves them. Talk about what your child chose as his or her favorite color, food, and book. How did your child draw your family, and who did your child choose as their VIP? Talk about ways your family can show other families just how important they are. Make extra efforts this week to ask your child about the things that are important to him or her.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child has gained a sense that the saints show ways to follow Jesus. (The Feast of All Saints comes this Friday, November 1.) The session also helped your child understand that all people—living and dead—are special in God's sight. As a family, you might play the "Praise or Putdowns Game" that appears on the last page of the lesson booklet. Talk about ways you can help one another appreciate how God sees all people.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In class, the children learned what makes people great in God's eyes. Ask your child to share the Gospel story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in their own words and tell what the story means. Talk together about what it means to be holy. God doesn't create people as nobodies and somebodies. Talk about ways your family can treat everyone as somebody. Ask your child how Saint Katharine Drexel did so.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The equality of all people in God's eyes and the dignity of every human being were central themes in this week's lesson. Take the opportunity to talk about how your family treats other people with dignity. Find out if authority, celebrity, intelligence, athletic ability, or other qualities make you think more highly of some people than of others. Remind one another that the value of every human life is the basis for Catholic social teaching.

Pray Together

Together read the Gospel parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Then spend a moment or two in silence, and then repeat three times the prayer, "Lord, have mercy on us!"



Bringing Home the Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
October 27, 2019

Fighting to be Right

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Why are we so often and easily convinced that our own positions and opinions are right? When faced with conflict and opposition, we can be tempted to shout down or coerce the people on the other side. In politics and religion, heated and controversial debates lead some to accuse others of being unpatriotic, uncaring, ignorant, and even un-Christian. Regardless of our behavior, being convinced that we are 100 percent correct comes at a price. Rory Vaden, an author, speaker, and self-discipline strategist, writes: “If I already ‘know’ what’s true, I don’t need to

entertain the idea of another perspective. ...Many of us hold on to beliefs, even about our own lives, that aren’t accurate. ...Yes, we want to be proven ‘right,’ even if what we’re right about keeps us from growth and change.”

When we eliminate dialogue, we alienate ourselves. We never discover what other people know, additional (or better) solutions, and the full truth. The Pharisee in today’s parable believes that talking with the tax collector would be beneath him, even meaningless: The tax collector is a sinner, while he is a righteous man whose works prove his worth. In his self-absorbed superiority he cannot see his lack of compassion or find humility before God. He forgets the many declarations in Scripture that God hears the cries of the poor, weak, and oppressed. This week, let us listen to these least ones and become one with them. +

*When we eliminate
dialogue, we alienate
ourselves. We never discover
what other people know.*

Sunday Readings

Sirach 35:12–14, 16–18

[The Lord] shows no partiality to the weak but hears the grievance of the oppressed.

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.

Luke 18:9–14

[Jesus said,] “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

A Word from Pope Francis

Sadly, we are witnessing a presentation of religion and religious values in a fundamentalist way, which is used to justify the spread of hatred, discrimination, and violence. The justification of such crimes on the basis of religious ideas is unacceptable, for “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

—Joint declaration with the pope of the
Armenian Apostolic Church,
June 26, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- In disagreements with others, do I feel the need to win or be “right”?
- When dealing with others do I try to put myself “in the other person’s shoes”?

Exercise, Sports, and Spirituality

By B. G. Kelley

“Why’d you do that?” I asked my wife. In a five-mile race, she’d slowed in the last mile, allowing a friend to beat her. “It meant more to her to get there first,” she said.

Wholesome spirituality must include the body to help us move toward a holistic union with God. Physical play—running, biking, swimming, or dancing—is tied to the human spirit.

If we put physical play and exercise in a spiritual dimension, it will help us accept absolute concepts—winning and losing, discipline, hard work—and understand life better. It will reveal character and grace; enlist intelligence and challenge; and teach respect for limits and laws.

Play nourishes the soul, making time wonderfully irrelevant, allowing us to escape from temporal struggles—bills, workplace stress, environmental desecration, and crime.

Play allows us to escape into our souls, reflect, and awaken innocence that often gets lost in adulthood. It keeps our lives from becoming merely about pleasure, power, and wealth.

Embracing the Journey

One autumn day long ago, I looked for my name on the locker room door at my high school. It wasn’t there. I’d failed to



make the basketball team.

Fr. Walter Conway noticed my dejected look when I shuffled into Latin class. “What’s wrong, son?” he asked. “I got cut from the basketball team,” I replied. He pulled me aside. “Son, you’re going to have to accept suffering and challenge as part of the search for fulfillment,”

he said. “Accept the suffering, then accept the challenge, and pray that God will show you the way to do something that will earn you a spot on the team next year.” Those words stuck in my psyche like a first kiss sticks to your lips.

I made a decision: I would fuse the physical and spiritual. I prayed while running four miles a day. By the following fall, when basketball tryouts came around, I’d be both physically and spiritually fit. I worked on my ball-handling and shooting, too.

I ran in Fairmount Park, a piece of paradise in Philadelphia. The autumn leaves along the Schuylkill River had turned to carrot orange, saffron gold, and scarlet red. The sun shimmered on the water. The air was crisp as celery. God provided this refuge for me. I even ran in the winter when it was so cold that icicles formed on my eyebrows. (I guess that was part of the suffering!)

When spring arrived, so did blossoming cherry trees, gentle breezes

off the water, and the rhythmic slicing of scullers’ oars, keeping time with my rhythms of prayer.

Summer came with its intense heat. (Again, the suffering!) But I kept reflecting on my Latin teacher’s words: “Accept suffering and challenge as part of the search for fulfillment.”

In autumn, I once again stood before the locker room door, reading the names of those who’d made the basketball team. My name was there! I’d arrived at my physical and spiritual destination, but the journey was as important as the arrival.

My physical-spiritual journey continued: I became a starter and exceeded my dreams by earning All-League honors and leading our division in scoring. More importantly—at least to my pop—basketball led to a college scholarship.

Know this: Exercise isn’t simply an investment in one’s health. Sure, it enriches muscle strength, bone density, and brain function—those factors that steadily decline with age. But sports and exercise can help us stay connected to God and the world. This can lead to a physical and spiritual ripening rather than a rotting, making us complete human beings. +



Lord, I am grateful you are close to the brokenhearted. In my brokenness I call on you. Have mercy on me, a sinner, small and precious in your eyes.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 28—
November 2

Monday, Sts. Simon and Jude:
Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Tuesday, Weekday:
Rom 8:18–25 / Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday, Weekday:
Rom 8:26–30 / Lk 13:22–30

Thursday, Weekday:
Rom 8:31b–39 / Lk 13:31–35

Friday, All Saints:
Rv 7:2–4, 9–14 / 1 Jn 3:1–3 / Mt 5:1–12a

Saturday, All the Faithful Departed (All Souls):
Wis 3:1–9 / Rom 5:5–11 / Jn 6:37–40