



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, November 17, 2019
Thirty-Third Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Lord Of All Hopefulness BB 402

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 63)

I will lift up my eyes at the name of the one who knows me well.

Preparation In Every Age BB 466

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion The Body Of Christ

Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 441

10:00 AM

Gathering: Let Heaven Rejoice BB 562

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)

All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. (2x)

Preparation Seek Ye First BB 435

O God You Search Me BB 437

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Christ Be Our Light BB 596

Whatever You Do BB 622

Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 441



Find us on:
facebook®

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.

✠ 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
NOVEMBER 10, 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

November 17, 2019	Fuel
November 24, 2019	Christmas Flowers
December 1, 2019	Property Management
December 8, 2019	Retired Religious Fund

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



Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will close at 12:00 Noon on **Wednesday, November 27, 2019**, and will remain closed on **Thursday, November 28, 2019** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Monday, December 2.



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

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Plaistow at **6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 27**. There will be **NO Mass** and **NO Adoration** on Thanksgiving Day, November 28.

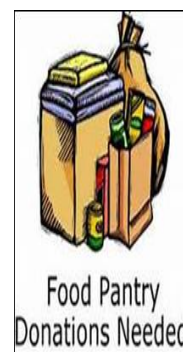


THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

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.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 19

6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, November 20

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, November 21

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, November 23

NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday, November 24

PREPARE CHURCHES FOR ADVENT

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers and Benediction	<i>Newton</i>

St. Vincent
de Paul
Society



Thanks, everyone, for supporting us at the Christmas Craft Fair!

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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, November 16 ~ Vigil / 33rd Sunday in Ord. Time

Mal 3:19-20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

4:00 PM	Geraldine and Dennis Miele by their family <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, November 17 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

8:00 AM	Laurie Irvine Stevens by Meg Thurnquist <i>Newton</i>
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10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel <i>Plaistow</i>
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Monday, November 18 ~ Dedication of Basilicas of Peter and Paul, Apostles; Rose Phillippine Duchesne, Virgin

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43

8:00 AM	Joseph L. Krafton (3 rd Anniversary) by Barbara Metcalf <i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, November 19 ~ Weekday

2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10

8:00 AM	Rosemary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel <i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, November 20 ~ Weekday

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28

6:30 PM	Carol Bettencourt by Elaine Bettencourt and family <i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, November 21 ~ Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44

8:00 PM	Robert and Rachael Huberdeau by Paula and Steve Fournier <i>Newton</i>
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Friday, November 22 ~ Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48

No Mass

Saturday, November 23 ~ Clement I, Pope and Martyr; Columban, Abbot; Bl. Miquel Agustín Pro, Priest & Martyr

1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40 (Day)

2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Mary Coltin by Colleen and Mark Hammond <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, November 24 ~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

8:00 AM	Laurie Irvine Stevens (1 st Anniversary) by Meg Thurnquist <i>Newton</i>
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10:00 AM	Bill Lueders (Birthday & Wedding Anniversary) by his wife, Carole Lueders <i>Plaistow</i>
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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 ✧

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.

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, December 1, 2019** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

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.

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.

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
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	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

HELP WANTED – ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some rearranging and decorating next **Sunday, November 24 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include Advent decorating, pew missalette change-overs and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Advent season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season upon us, we also have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the December 1 bulletin is **Monday, November 18 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 22 bulletin is **Monday, December 9 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 29 bulletin is **Monday, December 16 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the January 5 bulletin is **Monday, December 16 at 12:00 Noon.**

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.

**From the
Pastor's Desk**



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

With the end of the Fall season and the coming of the Winter months, **Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow will be closed from December 1, 2019 until Spring 2020.** This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees will be located in the back of both churches on the weekend of **December 1.** Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 14-15** (the Third Sunday of Advent).

Volunteers are welcome to help sort the gifts and distribute them. If you can help, please contact Marie at the Food Pantry by calling 603-819-4949 (leave a message) or email her at mfarren88@hotmail.com. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

**THANK YOU FROM
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights would like to thank all of the parishioners who supported our Italian Festival on Saturday October 19th in our Parish Center to benefit the Hurricane Dorian survivors in the Bahamas. We had a great turnout and the meal with the homemade sauce and meatballs from Chef Rudi were awesome. Everyone had a great time and people were very generous on the Raffles and the Silent Auction.

The Knights also want to thank the Tupelo Music Hall in Derry for their donation of 4 tickets to see Jonathan Edwards.

As a result of the Italian Festival, the Knights are donating \$2,000 to the relief efforts in the Bahamas. The Knights worldwide have donated over a \$1 million dollars to the relief efforts in the Bahamas.

If you would like more information on the Knights or our St Jude Council here at St Luke's, please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or dans49@comcast.net.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Jews connected the very spirit of their faith to the Temple with its incense-filled, prayerful inner courts and its shaded outer courts where people met and talked. They celebrated their holy days at the Temple; it was the center of their faith community. But Jesus' assessment of the times in this Sunday's Gospel proved accurate. The Jews' rebellion against Roman occupation that began in A.D. 66 ended in the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 by the Roman forces. When Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple to his disciples in Sunday's Gospel, they are shocked. Jesus both scares and assures his listeners, past and present. He explains that wars, disasters, and persecutions will continue in the world. He assures us that we can endure these and other troubles that occur in our lives. He promises to put words in our mouths so no one can put us down. He promises to be with us always.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): The language of this Sunday's Gospel is frightening for small children, so talk about how much God loves all creation. As the family looks forward to Thanksgiving, talk with your young child about all the good gifts God gives, especially the sun, the soil, and the seeds that grow the food we eat. This is a good time to establish the habit of a prayer before meals.

Promise (Grades K–1): This Sunday's Gospel is a difficult one for children, and so in class, children shared stories of their fears and worries. You may want to ask your child what he or she worries about. Stress that Jesus tells us not to be afraid because he is with us. Have your child tell you the story, "Lost in the Mall." Make a plan with your child so you both know what to do if he or she becomes lost like Jessica. The class learned and practiced the Our Father in class. Consider adding this prayer taught by Jesus into family prayers this week.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Although this Sunday's Gospel speaks of the end of the world, the class learned about the wonderful world God creates with love. Ask your child to show you the Creation Spiral he or she completed in class. Discuss some of the ways that your child learned to care for creation, and brainstorm others that your family can do. Jesus asks us not to worry when there are bad things happening in the world. Talk with your child about concerns he or she has for the world. Discuss how you deal with problems and how your faith plays a role.

Venture (Grades 4–6): In class, your child learned from the experiences of people who stood up for what they believed. Ask your child to share these experiences, especially Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Ask what the Second Coming of Jesus means and share his promise to be with us in the last days. Spend some time talking about how your family can stand up for what you believe. Ask your young person how the Sacrament of Confirmation gives us what we need to respond to God's call in our lives.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Your child's class began with a discussion of hopes for the world. Talk about what hopes your family has for the world. What hopes do you have for your family? Read the Sunday Gospel together and discuss what world events may make your family anxious or afraid. Then talk about Jesus' promise. How do Jesus' words concern or comfort you? The class also talked about resolving conflict. Discuss how you and other family members can work on solving arguments that come up.

Pray Together

Make a litany prayer of all the things your family is grateful for—life, health, friends, a good home, etc. After each is mentioned, the whole family can say together: "Thanks be to God!"



Why don't you think about it too?

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secure and convenient way to
manage your stewardship
without weekly envelopes and
without worries.**

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- You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend
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- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.





Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

November 17, 2019

Our Leader through Strife

By Mary Katharine Deeley

As we come to the close of the Church year, our readings turn more and more to the end times. These words are not easy to hear. Certainly, when we think about the persecution of Christians, the civil wars that seem far too frequent, and the number of people, nations, and even religious groups who claim to have the sole answer to everyone's problems, we can find a striking resemblance to Jesus' description of the coming days.

What our world is undergoing is not new. In every age people have been persecuted, wars have been fought,

natural disasters have occurred, and many have claimed to be saviors. Jesus admits this openly and still tells us not to despair. He promises to walk with us and to give us the wisdom to speak even in the midst of great trouble. It's tempting to follow the charismatic speakers and powerful leaders who claim to have the truth or single solution to our human limitations and vulnerabilities. Jesus urges us not to do that, but to look to him alone for what we need.

Our imperfect and passing world will always have places and times of great suffering and strife. Jesus doesn't promise to take it all away; he promises to lead us through it. God will never abandon us and will provide more than a temporary fix. If we doubt that, we have only to look to Jesus' death and resurrection to see that he was willing to take the worst the world had to offer in order to offer us the very best. +

*Jesus promises to walk
with us and to give us
the wisdom to speak even
in the midst of great trouble.*

Sunday Readings

Malachi 3:19–20a

For the day is coming, blazing like an oven, / when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble.

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

In toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you.

Luke 21:5–19

[Jesus said,] "You will be hated by all because of my name, but... by your perseverance you will secure your lives."

A Word from Pope Francis

We hear these children and their cries of pain... the sufferings, the experiences, and the pain of minors who were abused sexually by priests. It is a sin that shames us. Persons responsible for the protection of those children destroyed their dignity. We regret this deeply and we beg forgiveness.

—Feast of the Holy Innocents,
December 28,
2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I sometimes look to charismatic leaders to solve my problems?
- Have I been disappointed by those same leaders?

Why Do We Believe in God?

By Phyllis Zagano

If a friend asked you why he or she should believe in God, how would you answer? Catholics have a common understanding of what it means to speak of God. But in our pluralistic society where different religions meet every day, just what people mean by God is unclear. Christians,

Muslims, and Jews all believe in a single God but think about him differently.

When agnostics say they don't know about God, it is the God of these great Western religions they profess ignorance of. The same is true of atheists, who do not believe in one supreme being who created the world and sustains its existence.

For most, either you believe you are in charge—or not. If you believe you are not in charge but that the cosmos is ordered by a supreme intelligence and not by chaotic chance, then you likely believe in God.

Why is that? A French philosopher named Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) presented an interesting wager. He said we all either bet there is a God or that there is not. The possible results of Pascal's wager really argue for belief in God.

If we bet that there is a God and there is not, then we effectively lose nothing. However, if we bet that there is not a God



and there is a God, then we lose everything. And if we bet that there is a God and there truly is a God, then we win everything. This is a coldly rational way of looking at God, but for many it is a way to start thinking about his existence.

Limits of Human Reason

Even so, we cannot really know much about God. That is because our intellects are limited and if God is God, then he is without limits. Our minds are unable to surround the enormity and complexity of God.

Before Pascal, many great thinkers such as St. Anselm (1033–1109), St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), and René Descartes (1596–1650) presented proofs for God's existence. Even today, philosophers argue the point. But arguments and counterarguments about the existence of God are limited by the confines of human reason. In the end, whether we are a brilliant philosopher or the simplest child, the Church teaches that everyone can know and love God.

How can that be? To begin with, Christianity teaches that God came into history as Jesus Christ. The mission of Jesus was to teach us about the Father, who loved Jesus—and us—into being. The fact of that love is understood in the person of the Holy Spirit. This is how

we understand God as the Trinity. In the Church's earliest years, Christians hammered out the definition of God that remains today and which forms the first words of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...."

Unique Evidence

Even so, after millions of people have professed the Apostles' Creed, and after brilliant philosophers have "proved" God's existence, why should we believe?

The question is best understood in the negative. How can anyone see a sunrise or a baby and not believe in God? How can anyone watch a flower grow or see a wave upon the shore and not believe in God? How can anyone who has seen reflected in his or her own heart, the bright star in the east that continues to shine throughout eternity, not believe in God? +



*Lord, I am grateful for
your command to love.
Help me to persevere in loving
and serving all people.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 18–23

Monday, Weekday: 1 Mc 1:10–15,
41–43, 54–57, 62–63 / Lk 18:35–43

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Mc 6:18–31 / Lk 19:1–10

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Mc 7:1, 20–31 / Lk 19:11–28

Thursday: Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary:
1 Mc 2:15–29 / Lk 19:41–44

Friday, St. Cecilia:
1 Mc 4:36–37, 52–59 / Lk 19:45–48

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Mc 6:1–13 / Lk 20:27–40