



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)

Show us your kindness, O God. (2x)

Preparation Come Lord, Maranatha BB 65

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Song Of The Body Of Christ BB 331
I Received The Living God BB 325

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 62

10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85)

Show us your kindness, O God. (2x)

Preparation Maranatha BB 68

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace

Communion Jesus, Come To Us BB 394

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 62



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 24, 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

December 1, 2019	Property Management
December 8, 2019	Retired Religious Fund
December 15, 2019	Fuel
December 22, 2019	No Second Collection

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary (Patroness of the U.S.A.) has been transferred to Monday, December 9 this year. It is NOT a holy day of obligation this year. The Solemnity will be celebrated at the 8:00 AM Mass in Newton on **Monday, December 9.**

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

TAI CHI

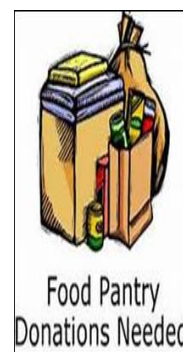
Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and 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'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL / WINTER...

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 1

11:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Family Advent Activity	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

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

Thursday, December 5

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	<i>Plaistow</i>
10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, December 7

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 8

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	<i>Plaistow</i>
11:00 AM	RCIA	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, November 30 ~ Vigil / First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

4:00 PM	Bertha Boben by Pat Zakiewicz	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 1 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

8:00 AM	Esther and Robert Cote by Wayne and Christine Cote	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Thomas Verducci, Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) by his family	<i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, December 2 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

8:00 AM	Carol Bettencourt by Elaine Bettencourt and family	<i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, December 3 ~ Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

8:00 AM	The Intentions of Edward Duhamel	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 4 ~ John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

6:30 PM	Mary Stevens by her sister, Marjorie Knowles	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, December 5 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

8:00 AM	Ronald Metcalf by his family	<i>Newton</i>
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Friday, December 6 ~ Nicholas, Bishop

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

No Mass

Saturday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (Day)

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 8 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

8:00 AM	Carol Bettencourt by Elaine Bettencourt and family	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Mary Sceggell (2 nd Anniversary) by Carole Lueders	<i>Plaistow</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, December 18 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

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 Pavaglio, 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

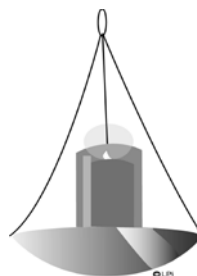
Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 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.



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

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** ✠

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Knight of Columbus, Andy Gagnon Jr., is holding a Christmas Tree Sale at 239 Lover's Lane, Haverhill, MA (just off Rte 108 at NH/MA Line) on **Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8 and 14-15 from 9:00 AM to Dusk**. Andy, in memory of his father, Andy Sr., who donated net proceeds to our food pantry through Christmas tree sales in years past, will be donating 20 trees to our Food Pantry. Food donations for St. Luke's Food Pantry will be accepted during the sale. Trees will be fresh cut the day of sale and will be priced at \$20 and \$25 each. The Knights and the Gagnon Family wish you a very Blessed Christmas.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

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

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.amazonmile.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).

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Follow in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on the night Jesus was born

Friday, December 13, 2019 ~ 5:30 to 8:30 PM
St. Michael Parish, Exeter, NH

Tours leave every 15 minutes

www.stmichaelparish.org

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617
GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY
1 HOUR A MONTH**

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to www.kofc.org/joinus. 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

ADVENT 2019

Daily Mass Readings and Reflections for the Sacred Season

SUNDAY

1 Salvation Is Near
The day is at hand; put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:11-14

8 For Our Instruction
Through the encouragement of Scripture, we have hope.

Romans 15:4-9

15 Go and Tell John
The poor have the good news preached to them.

Matthew 11:2-11

22 The Son Is the Sign
The virgin shall bear a son and call him Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:10-14

MONDAY

2 Lord, Heal Me
Lord, I am not worthy, but say the word and I will be healed and forgiven.

Matthew 8:5-11

9 Woman's Offspring
The woman's offspring will bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:9-15, 20

16 A Star Shall Come
A star shall come out of Jacob, a scepter out of Israel.

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a

23 His Name Is John
Zechariah's tongue was loosed, and he blessed God.

Luke 1:57-66

TUESDAY

3 Branch of Jesse
A branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:1-10

10 Comfort My People
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:1-11

17 The Lion of Judah
The Lion of Judah holds the scepter, the ruler's staff.

Genesis 49:2, 8-10

24 Prepare His Way
The sunrise will give light to those who sit in darkness.

Luke 1:67-79

WEDNESDAY

4 I Have Compassion
Jesus had compassion on the crowds that followed him.

Matthew 15:29-37

11 Bless His Holy Name
The Lord is merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10

18 Call His Name Jesus
Call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:18-25

25 Go to Bethlehem
Let us go to Bethlehem and see what has happened!

Luke 2:15-20

THURSDAY

5 In Perfect Peace
Trust in the Lord God, your everlasting rock, forever.

Isaiah 26:1-6

12 I Will Bless You
In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-7

19 Filled With the Spirit
John will turn many in Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:5-25

FRIDAY

6 The Lord Is My Light
Wait for the Lord, be strong, let your heart take courage.

Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14

13 Peace Like a River
The Lord leads you in the way you should go.

Isaiah 48:17-19

20 The Throne of David
The Lord will give him the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:26-38

SATURDAY

7 Weep No More
You shall hear a word: "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

14 Elijah Has Come
Elijah has come, and he will restore all things.

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

21 Blessed Are You
Elizabeth exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women."

Luke 1:39-45

This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.
— Luke 2:12

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2019 - 20

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -

Christmas Liturgy schedule signups for all ministers
Giving Tree tags available - all gifts due December 15

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)
SUNDAYS OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SEASON
6:00 PM IN NEWTON
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOLLOWS
DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 24 VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow)
6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)

Wednesday, December 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9:00 am Liturgy (Newton)

Sunday, December 1 11:30 am Family Advent Activity (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Reconciliation Service - Saint Michael, Exeter
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Sunday, December 8 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Monday, December 9 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*transferred - NOT a Holy Day of Obligation*) LITURGY: 8:00 AM - Newton

Sunday, December 15 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Giving Tree gifts due today!

Monday, December 16 **LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE**

Sunday, December 22 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Tuesday, December 24 No 8 am Liturgy in Plaistow

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 23 (NOON), 24-27, 30 (NOON), 31
AND JAN. 1-3**

Thursday, December 26 NO 8:00 am Liturgy or Adoration at Newton

Saturday, December 28 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 29 8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer, Newton

Tuesday, December 31 No 8 am Liturgy at Plaistow
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (*A Holy Day of Obligation*) (Plaistow)

Wednesday, January 1 9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS (*A Holy Day of Obligation*) (Newton)

Thursday, January 2 NO 8:00 am Liturgy or Adoration at Newton

Saturday, January 4 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

Sunday, January 5 8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

Saturday, January 11 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil - BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

Sunday, January 12 8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Path of Light

Lord of our eternal day,
you alone brighten our world.
Sometimes we lose our way in the darkness,
and sometimes we make the world a
darker place.
Alert us to the ways we drift into shadow.
Illuminate our hearts
and send forth your instruction,

that we may follow your path of light
and ascend your holy mountain.
When darkness surrounds us, keep us
radiant with hope,
so that all will see and know that you are
in our midst,
you who alone are God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 1, 2019
The Day Is Coming



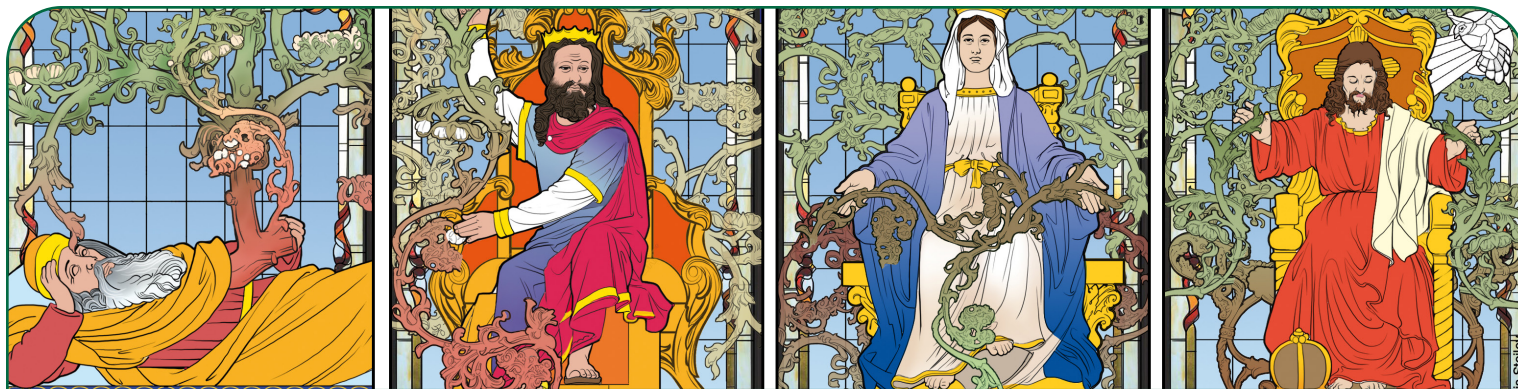
Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44. Our liturgical year both concludes and begins with readings on the end-times. As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that we are not only preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we are also preparing for his return. The First Reading fills us with hope for the Second Coming, for on that day everyone in the world will turn to God and there will be an end to conflicts and war.

Until Christ comes again, we must “walk in the light” and turn away from dark, destructive thoughts and deeds. When we live as holy, kind, and loving people, we show that we are ready for God's kingdom, even though we continue doing everyday things such as working, eating, and sleeping.

Our lives may not seem radically different from the lives of others, but God can tell the difference.

Jesus warns us of the danger of not getting ready. Disaster struck those who did not prepare for the flood. Disaster struck the master of the house who slept through the swift and sudden arrival—and departure—of the thief. Disaster struck those who were left behind; they were excluded from God's kingdom.

Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreaths. Before you do, sit in darkness. Name whatever evils confront you as you prepare for Christ's return. Then light the candle, and pray for God to expel darkness from you and our world. Rejoice that Christ has already come to lead you into the light of his eternal day.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 2 Far and Wide

The soldier is certain that Jesus can heal his servant, even from a distance. He sees that Jesus is the presence of God, sheltering and protecting people. In Jesus, God's holy presence spreads out beyond Jerusalem to wherever Jesus goes, to whoever asks for his help. Use a map to find places in the world that are the farthest from you and pray for the people there. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 4:2–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4b, 4cd–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 8:5–11.*

Tuesday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit rests, bringing the peace for which people yearn. St. Francis Xavier, recognizing that he was blessed to know the one filled with this Spirit, devoted his life to sharing the Gospel. Although thousands of people came to know God through the revelation of his Son, not everyone welcomed this missionary. But he persisted. Persevere in the Spirit of peace today by letting go of a mean or angry thought. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.*

Wednesday, December 4 Food for Life

Every day in our world some people have more than they can eat while others go hungry. God promises a world in which everyone has enough to eat and there are no more tears of hunger, no more pleas for help. By healing and feeding all who come to him desperate for physical and spiritual aid, Jesus fulfills God's promise. This ministry did not end with Jesus. It continues with the next generation of followers: us. Volunteer for a meal program that helps the local poor to share the good news that God is fulfilling his promises. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.*

Thursday, December 5 Built to Last

Sometimes we think we're doing what our Lord wants, when we're doing what we want. By becoming human, God surprised everyone and revealed how much about the divine we have to learn. We must listen closely to the words of God's Son and not imagine that we know best. Only when we truly know what our Lord is calling us to do will we be like "a strong city" and a house built on rock. Read chapters 5 through 7 of Matthew's account of the Gospel and reflect on the passage that most surprises and challenges you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1 and 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.*

Friday, December 6 Gifts

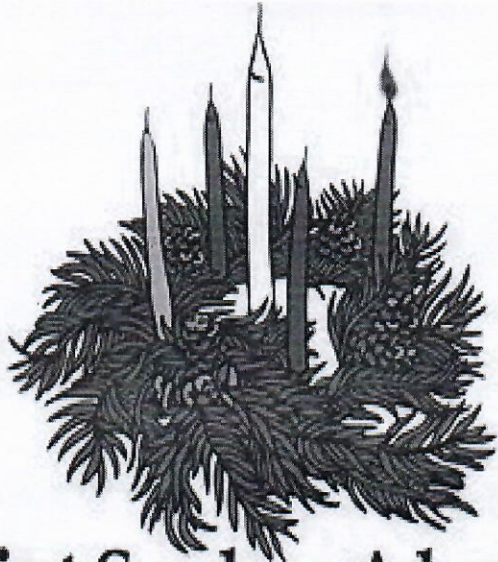
God's name is revered by all who long for justice and who turn to him for instruction. Jesus heals the two blind men because they "see" that he leads people to such reverence for God. They're so happy to be healed that they refuse to keep the healing a secret. St. Nicholas, who is honored today, brought joy to people by secretly leaving gifts. Surprise someone with an anonymous gift. In this way, you will revere God, the source of all gifts. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; Matthew 9:27–31.*

Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose

During St. Ambrose's lifetime, many people denied that Jesus was fully divine. Yet if Jesus did not fully share in the divinity of his Father, then God hadn't become truly present to us at the Incarnation. St. Ambrose knew that the Jesus who came to "bind up the wounds of his people" perfectly and completely revealed the love of God. Share God's love today by visiting someone who might feel forgotten or alone. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8.*



A reflection for the First Sunday in Advent Year A



First Sunday of Advent

Some people are just naturally good at thinking ahead. They are never caught in a rainstorm without an umbrella, their car has never run out of gas, their checkbook always has money available. Without being obsessive about tomorrow, some people are just good planners.

At the beginning of Advent, the readings we hear today invite us to plan ahead. Even though most people think of Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas (which it certainly is). Advent is actually about something even more distant, and yet already among us... the Second Coming of Christ.

Taken by itself, the first Gospel reading we hear in this new liturgical year is not hope-filled. Jesus gives clear warning about the suddenness of the “coming of the Son of Man, and dire consequences for those who are unprepared for that coming. Yet the other readings give us a context in which to prepare for the Second Coming. We are to be “instructed by the Lord,” and remake the tools of war and injustice into tools of compassion and peace. We are to act appropriately, live as *children of the light*, and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” These are practical ways we prepare for the judgment that will come on the Day of the Lord.

Too many Christians get all carried away with silly fantasies about the Second Coming. Too many are lost in the melodrama of the “rapture” and the exclusive sense that they are the “chosen ones.” To wallow in such a fantasy world, however, denies the seriousness of the call of Jesus to “stay awake” and makes the Day of Christ’s coming a caricature of what Jesus intended the Day of the Son of Man to be.

Because the Day of the Son of Man is **today** – not in some unknown future. ***The Second Coming is today.*** The Advent coming of the Christ calls us to realize that we are to be in a constant state of preparation. Christians who are true disciples are always looking for signs of Jesus’ arrival in their lives.

The excitement of Advent points to the energy that the Risen Christ places into our lives. Because the Resurrection promise belongs to all of us as adopted sons and daughters, we are empowered to work to bring the Kingdom to birth in our everyday lives. We are called to announce to every person we meet that the Day of the Lord is at hand.

In the dark time of the year, Christians celebrate light. In a world of agendas and plans, Christians look to and revel in a coming that is already here. In a time and place of confusion, emotional upheaval, and despair, Christians proclaim that the long wait is finally, absolutely over.

God has it all planned.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

The Church's three-year cycle of Lectionary readings begins again on the first Sunday of Advent. We start reading from Year A, which is organized around Matthew's Gospel. The prophet Isaiah's words are used prominently in Advent. They are read as the First Reading each week and are quoted by Matthew in the Gospels. We begin the new Church year by hearing Jesus speak of his coming in glory. He cautions us always to be ready for him and to live each day in the light of God.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child's lesson this week features an Advent wreath on the cover. Over the next four weeks, there will be a flame to cut out and paste on the wreath candles. This wreath should be displayed where your child can see and reach it in order to paste a new flame each Sunday after Mass. Talk with your child about how you celebrate his or her birthday and relate that to preparing for the birthday of Jesus.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child made a simple Advent calendar in class this week. Display the calendar and open one panel each Sunday leading up to Christmas. The class learned different ways to prepare for Christmas. Ask your child to share some of these ways. Help your child choose one or two things to do for Advent. Using the pictures as a guide, request that your child tell you the story, "The Video Game Problem." Discuss what choices Frank could have made so he could have spent time with his family.

Good News (Grades 2–3): In class this week, your child reviewed the Ten Commandments. Talk with him or her about how to live the Commandments. The class also performed a play to learn about the prophet Isaiah. The

words of Isaiah are used during Advent and Christmas. Ask your child to tell you how Isaiah spoke for God. Talk about ways your family can be ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Venture (Grades 4–6): At the beginning of this new Church year, look together at the liturgical year calendar in your child's lesson booklet. Talk about the importance of following the life of Jesus throughout the year. Your child also learned about the prophet Isaiah. Have your child share Isaiah's vision with the family and discuss why peace is a necessary goal for everyone. In preparing for Christmas, plan things to do as a family. Use the Week 1 Calendar List in the lesson booklet to give you ideas for this coming week.

Visions (Grades 7–9): In class this week, the young people considered how they could make Jesus' birth meaningful during this Advent. As a family, brainstorm activities that will help prepare your family's hearts and home for Christmas. Make sure what you choose to do is realistic. Your youngster can share some of the ideas discussed in class. Use a large format calendar to record the activities your family completes together.

Pray Together

Plan to have a family Advent wreath. The wreath traditionally has — three purple candles and one pink, but four, all-white candles will do. During the first week of Advent, light one candle each evening. During the second week, light two; during the third week, light three. If you have colored candles, the third week is for the pink candle. All four candles will be lit during the fourth week. Say a prayer that shows how you are excited for Jesus' coming. It can be as simple as: "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Advent: Preparing for the Life to come!

The season of Advent is a time of expectation for the Christian community. It is a season of waiting and watching for God's promise of life and light. The Church prepares as it waits for the coming of the One who brings new life: Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

The Church prepares by watching in three directions...

The Church looks in the direction of those promises in Holy Scripture that the Messiah would come, that a virgin would conceive and bear a Son who is called Emmanuel, "God with us." These are the promises of Christmas. The Church also watches for those ways by which Christ's life is present now in our midst: the preaching of the Word of God and the offering of the Sacraments of forgiveness. Finally, the Church watches with patience and hope for Christ's final coming in judgment. Then His word of judgment will clothe with eternal life all who believe in Him.



Yet, as the Church lives in this world it is surrounded by a darkness resembling that of the Titanic's hull. Advent calls this darkness to mind and penetrates this darkness with promises about the Light of life. While the world is immersed in preparations for the secular celebration of Christmas, Advent allows the Church time to prepare for rejoicing in the full glow of Christ's light shining in the darkness.

The Church prepares for that Light by observing the disciplines of Advent.

These disciplines bring to the Church the nourishment that comes from the Lord's life. Advent is a season for immersion in the words of Scripture, especially those promises of Christ's birth, of His life-giving presence in His Church through the Holy Sacraments, and of eternal life at His final coming.

Advent is also a season of confession and repentance. It allows the Church to see its own sin-filled darkness, confess its sin, and receive the Lord's forgiveness. Advent is a season of fervent prayer, the Church repeating to the Lord His words that He will come again. The Church cries, *Maranatha!* Come, O Lord! Come quickly! (1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20)

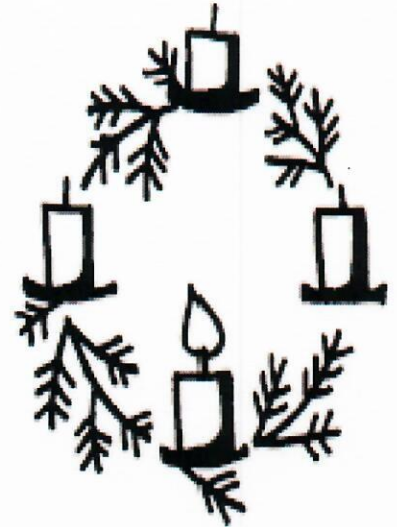
By practicing these disciplines in Advent, Christ leads His Church back to the relationship of absolute dependence He has established. So the Church waits in hope for the Lord's final appearance. On that day He, who became what we are to redeem us, will clothe us in the life of His righteousness.

During the Advent season, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Plaistow on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 PM, and in Newton on Sunday evenings following 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen, made them into circles (symbols of eternity), and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Farmers pulled wheels off their wagons in exchange for sleigh tracks, and often used their wagon wheels as frames for the wreaths, reminding themselves of the springtime to come.

Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal— one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lit on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lit, a prayer may be said. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.



A RITE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT AT HOME

The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader prays:

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches— and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: ***The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. (Is. 9:1-2)***

Then all pray: O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light shines from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way, and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the candle is lit.


DAILY PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

First Week- *O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.*

Second Week - *O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.*

Third Week - *O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command, come and show us the way to salvation.*

Fourth Week - *O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation.*



Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Florence Kruczek (*right*), 91,
and de Lourdes Okoniewski, 87,
each entered religious life in the
1940s, barely out of high school.
For decades, prayer and teaching
filled their days. Yet a lifetime of
serving others has only increased
their own gratitude. "I get up each
morning and say, 'O Lord, thank
you for the gift of another day,'"
says Sister Florence.

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Bringing Home the Word +

First Sunday of Advent (A)
December 1, 2019

Get Ready to Encounter Jesus

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. In Jesus' time on earth, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence.

We are to ready ourselves to encounter Jesus at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a

watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "for you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise? +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

They shall beat their swords into plowshares / and their spears into pruning hooks.

Romans 13:11-14

Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

Matthew 24:37-44

[Jesus said,] "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

*Like a watchman
who stands over the city
or a guard who
protects the entry gate,
we are to be vigilant.*

A Word from Pope Francis

We can ask ourselves: Is this sacrament fulfilled in me? More concretely: Do I just like to be served at the Lord's table or do I get up to serve like the Lord?... And as a Church let us ask ourselves: After receiving Communion many times, have we become people of communion?

—Eucharistic concelebration,
April 20, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas?
- How do I prepare for Christ's coming in the Eucharist, and at other times in my life?

Living the Liturgical Year

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

Our Catholic identity is shaped by the way we read the Bible. And we read Scripture in a special way: It's called the liturgical year, with today being the first Sunday of that new year.

This annual cycle of feasts and seasons is not primarily about decorations (when to display the poinsettias and the lilies). Nor is it simply a way to add variety to the Mass so that it isn't repetitive (some days the priest wears green, other days, purple). The liturgical year is about much more all-inclusive issues. The liturgical year enables us to celebrate the whole mystery of Christ.

The Bible is our living contact with the mystery of Christ. The way we Catholics officially read Scripture creates our liturgical year. For example, the day on which we read the resurrection account becomes Easter. The day when we proclaim Christ's birth becomes Christmas Day.

The original, most important Catholic feast day is Sunday—the Lord's day. Jews find identity in Sabbath rest; Muslims, in Jumu'ah, the Friday prayer. We Catholics find identity in the Sunday eucharistic assembly. The Bible emphasizes the bond between the Lord's day and the Lord's Supper. While our contemporary understanding of Sunday has incorporated elements of Sabbath



rest, Sunday retains its original meaning as a day of assembly. On the Lord's day we gather with fellow Catholics and celebrate his paschal victory, the Eucharist.

Biblical Tradition

At Mass on Sundays and holy days during years called A, B, and C, the Church proclaims some

500 passages of the Bible from each book of the Old and New Testaments. The Church year enables us to hear from all the books of Scripture.

There are two ways in which the Church decides which passages of the Bible to proclaim. Imagine one of your favorite novels, books of poetry, or inspirational essays. You might read from beginning to end. Or, especially after you are familiar with the book, you might pick out certain passages that correspond to a situation you are experiencing.

The Church reads the Bible in both of these ways. On some Sundays the Church selects the passages based on the theme. This manner of selection creates the liturgical seasons of Easter and Christmas. On the other Sundays the Church reads various books of the Bible from beginning to end.

The liturgy enables us to pass from our past-present-future timeframe to enter into God's time of salvation so that the grace and mystery proclaimed in the

Scripture readings are made present. An old spiritual asks, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Yes, I was there! Or, more accurately, I am there now! At the Easter Vigil we sing, "This is the night when Jesus Christ rose triumphant from the grave." We don't sing, "We remember the night long ago when...." We sing, "This is the night!"

Jesus: Alive Again

We Catholics today are not disappointed because all the wonderful events of Christ's life happened long ago. The liturgical year enables us to be present to those events now. The liturgical year makes the mysteries of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection present in a mysterious way so that Christians of every generation can come into contact with them and be enriched by their graces.

No single celebration can do justice to the mystery of Christ. The liturgical year enables us to experience the events of Christ in a Catholic, all-embracing way so that we can enter into the mysteries and be enriched by God's saving love. +

PRAYER

Lord, give me the courage to disarm my heart from the feelings of anger, resentment, and revenge that foster so much pain and division in my life. Instill in me a spirit of gratitude and joy that I may become your instrument of peace and reconciliation whenever conflicts arise.

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 2–7

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 4:2–6 / Mt 8:5–11


Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier:
Is 11:1–10 / Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 25:6–10a / Mt 15:29–37

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Is 26:1–6 / Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Is 29:17–24 / Mt 9:27–31

Saturday, St. Ambrose:
Is 30:19–21, 23–26 / Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8

Bringing Home
the Word 
December 1, 2019

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