



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019  
Third 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 Maranatha BB 68

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Ubi Caritas BB 326  
The Supper Of The Lord BB 350

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 62

**10:00 AM**

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)

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

Preparation Mary's Song BB 682  
Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 46

Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace

Communion Luke 1: My Soul Rejoices BB 819  
Holy Is Your Name

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/](http://www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/) or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

**✠ PARISH TITHING ✠**

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

**November 27, 2019**

**Thanksgiving (Food Pantry) \$ 237.00**

**December 1, 2019**

**Offertory \$6,885.65**

**Property Management \$1,698.02**

**December 8, 2019**

**Offertory \$5,521.43**

**Retired Religious Fund \$2,190.00**

**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. 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 15, 2019	Fuel
December 22, 2019	No Second Collection
December 25, 2019	Christmas

**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/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

**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.**

#### FROM THE PASTOR BAPTISMAL FONT AT NEWTON

As I announced on Sunday, December 1, the Baptismal Font at Newton has been refurbished and reinstalled into the church at Newton. Original to the 1967 church, the marble font's seams had disintegrated and fallen apart over the summer, damaging one panel of the font's side.

The Parish looked for a repair specialist for nearly two months and received estimates anywhere from \$1500.00 to \$3600.00 for the repairs that had to be done. Yet despite the estimates, nobody would take the project because it was custom work.

The Parish contacted **Montes Marble & Granite Inc. (montesmarble.com)** located at 1 Hilldale Ave, Unit 3 in Plaistow, (603) 378-9292 in a desperate attempt to find some company available to do the repairs. Not only did Mr. Carlos Montes agree to do the repair, he improved and strengthened the marble font, repaired the broken piece, and installed another slab of marble inside of the font to help its future stability. And the price for all this work?

Mr. Montes repeatedly has refused to take a penny for the job.

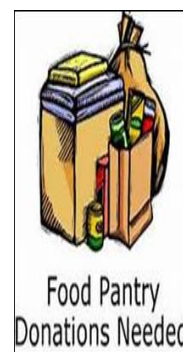
Please join together in thanking God for Mr. Montes and his crew. And if you are thinking of marble or granite in your own home... well one good turn...



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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

#### Sunday, December 15

11:00 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>

#### Tuesday, December 17

6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, December 18

#### 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, December 19

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, December 21

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, December 22

10:00 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>
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Newton</i>

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

#### Saturday, December 14 ~ Vigil / Third Sunday of Advent

*Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11*

4:00 PM	Gertrude and Frank De Cescenzo by Pat Zakiewicz <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

*Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11*

8:00 AM	Wayne Bettencourt by Janice Bettencourt <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	William Knowles by Catherine Willis <i>Plaistow</i>

#### Monday, December 16 ~ Advent Weekday

*Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27*

8:00 AM	Ronald Metcalf by his family <i>Newton</i>
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#### Tuesday, December 17 ~ Late Advent Weekday

*Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17*

8:00 AM	Rosemary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Wednesday, December 18 ~ Late Advent Weekday

*Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25*

6:30 PM	People of the Parish <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Thursday, December 19 ~ Late Advent Weekday

*Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25*

8:00 AM	For Michael and his recovery <i>Newton</i>
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#### Friday, December 20 ~ Late Advent Weekday

*Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38*

No Mass

#### Saturday, December 21 ~ Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

*Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45 (Day)*

*Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM	Joan Foster by Pat Zakiewicz <i>Plaistow</i>
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#### Sunday, December 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24*

8:00 AM	Joseph A. Krafton (44 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by his family <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel <i>Plaistow</i>

**St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society**



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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

## ❖ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ❖

### **MEN'S RETREAT**

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

The 35<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### **ADULT CONFIRMATION**

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

### **PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION**

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, January 5, 2020** 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](mailto:CreightonFertility@yahoo.com).

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY**

The Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Manchester has launched a state-wide research project to learn more about the perception and influence of Catholic schools. Please help our schools by completing this survey at [tinyurl.com/DioceseOfManchesterSurvey](http://tinyurl.com/DioceseOfManchesterSurvey).

### **ADORATION**

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

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

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

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

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

## ❖ PARISH DIRECTORY ❖

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Thomas Kondel	<a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:youth@stluketheevangelist.net">youth@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

**WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten:

**If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.**

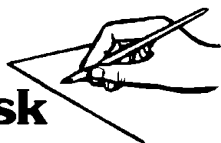
In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. During winter time storms and the clean up associated with major snowfall, access to the campuses in Newton and Plaistow will be restricted. Public notification of the closure will be accomplished through the Office of Religious Education and the Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten as in the past; Parishioners need only to look for indications of Timberlane or Sanborn school districts closure to assume that Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish is also closed.

The Parish Office and Liturgical schedule will typically be observed as usual even if school districts post a delay in their opening times.

In the event of winter events on a weekend, the Pastor, Facilities Director and Religious Education Coordinator will continue to work together to determine whether or not to cancel class meetings, Parish events or outside group activities.

**Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled**, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.

**From the  
Pastor's Desk**



**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING**

With the coming of the Winter months, **Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed 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 are located in the back of both churches. Please return your gift - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 14-15**

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

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.**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Parish Office will **close at 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 23, 2019 and will remain closed until Monday, January 6, 2020.**

**NO ADORATION**

There will be NO Adoration in Newton or Plaistow during Christmas and New Year's weeks.

**VIGIL LIGHT**

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00.

**ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE**

**Weekend of January 4-5, 2020**

**12:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Watch the bulletin for more information!**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Men of all ages are invited to join the Knights on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or email him at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net).

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Lasting Joy

Loving God,  
all that was broken, you bind up,  
all that was lost, you restore.  
We rejoice that you have come to save us,  
but sometimes we weaken and lose heart.  
When we grow tired, give us your strength.  
When we grow fearful and uncertain,  
give us your resolve.

When we forget you in times of pain  
and sorrow,  
inspire us anew with your love  
and consolation.  
Heal all that ails our hearts  
so that we may walk with unwavering faith  
into the everlasting joy of your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

**Come What May**



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.* On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice that we will soon celebrate the Incarnation. Our excitement increases as schools let out, Christmas parties begin, and stores ramp up their bargains. With so much going on, the joy of Christmas might feel effortless, but our readings remind us that true joy comes from commitment and perseverance.

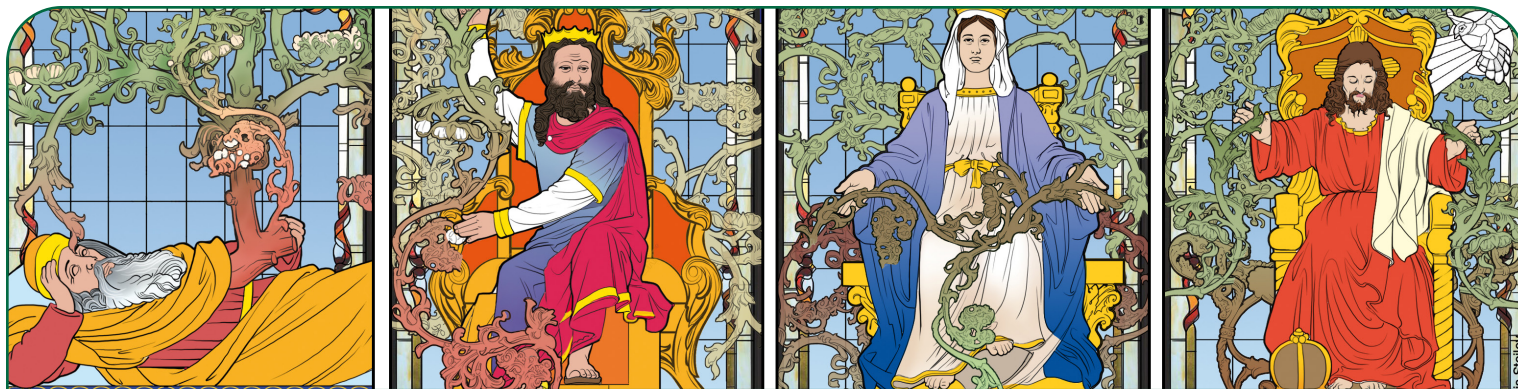
St. James urges us to be patient and steadfast in our faith despite whatever unkindness or injustice assails us. It is easy to be joyful when things are going well; it shows true faith to remain uplifted when life gets hard. The prophet Isaiah knows this, too. He prophesied that God would bring

back those who were forced to leave their homes because of war. Any who wish to share in this glorious future, however, must remain strong and steadfast for the long journey home.

For John the Baptist and others, remaining steadfast in joyful hope meant accepting that God's plan of salvation was unfolding differently than they thought it would. Although Jesus revealed God's compassion, in other ways he was not the messiah they wanted. Some people were even offended by Jesus. It took effort for people to set aside their expectations and receive Jesus with joy.

This Sunday we ask ourselves what could steal our joy away, and we recommit ourselves to being strong, patient, and steadfast in faith, come what may.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 16 Speaking Truly

Balaam, who was not an Israelite, was called upon by a foreign leader to curse God's people. Instead, Balaam blesses Israel. Despite what others want, Balaam obeys God. Despite challenges to his authority, Jesus also persists in proclaiming God's word. Make a list of people who have bravely spoken God's word in the face of opposition. Reflect on what they teach you about staying true to God's word. *Today's Readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27.*

### Tuesday, December 17 Jewish Savior

Judah was one of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel. Because it was the only tribe to survive a series of foreign attacks, other nations came to refer to the region this tribe inhabited as Judea and to its people as Jews. In his genealogy of Jesus, Matthew is careful to show that Jesus is both Jewish and of the tribe of Judah. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to his people. The Catholic Church's use of the O Antiphons highlights Jesus' Jewish roots. List the O Antiphons and pray with them until Christmas. *Today's Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.*

### Wednesday, December 18 The Ultimate Salvation

While prophesying that God would save his people, Jeremiah refers to the people's enslavement in Egypt and then to the invasion of Assyria centuries later. During both of these times God's people experienced enslavement and suffering. When the angel appears to Joseph, he announces that Jesus will save all people from the greatest of all enslavements: sin and death. Make a paper chain and hang it on your tree as a reminder of the bondage from which Christ has freed us. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

### Thursday, December 19 Conceptions

We might not know the story of the wife of Manoah, but Zechariah definitely would have heard of her. He also would know the stories of Sarah and Hannah, two other women in the Old Testament who unexpectedly conceived a child. Despite knowing such stories from his own religious heritage, Zechariah questions Gabriel's prophecy. Help people to celebrate God's gift of life by bringing donations to a local pregnancy center or by volunteering at a shelter for women and children. *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

### Friday, December 20 Trust

King Ahaz did not want to ask for a sign because a sign would require his doing something that would probably cost him. God asks Mary to do something that will also significantly change her life, but she obeys. Nothing like this had ever happened in the history of her people, yet Mary entrusts herself to God's extraordinary plan. Surprise someone with an unexpected act of kindness today as a way of sharing God's wondrous goodness. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38.*

### Saturday, December 21 Leaping for Joy

Our hearts leap for joy at the Incarnation, as we hope they'll leap again for joy at our Lord's return in glory. All of the readings for today remind us that our God in whom we place our hope and trust will work wonders in our lives. Read both options for the First Readings, then compose your own joyful song of praise to God. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45.*





## COME, O COME....

Yes, you read the title right. That's "O" - the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, inner tubes, doughnuts, hula hoops, no hitters... and Advent. In many parishes, "O" is the first word said in the new church year. We sing it in Advent's most popular song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It announces the season which anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas.

This hymn, which is almost synonymous with the whole season of Advent was first composed and sung to announce that Advent was ending. **The last eight days of Advent (beginning on December 17 and ending on December 24) form a little season all by themselves.** As the church prepares to celebrate the nativity of Christ, the Liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At evening prayer, the Church prays a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament tradition. "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and, on Christmas eve, the greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us."

For the reasons which will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the "O Antiphons." They are a hallmark of late Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for centuries. The Mass now includes a version of them as the alleluia verses for the same eight days before Christmas.





In the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That “O” of course, simply tells us that we’re talking to someone. It is like saying, “Hey, you,” only more politely. But “O” reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end, like God’s love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

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O come, Thou **Wisdom** from on high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.

O come, Thou **Rod of Jesse**, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou **Day-spring**, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
O Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou **Key of David**, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

O come, great **Lord of might**,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou **Root of Jesse’s tree**,  
An ensign of Thy people be;  
Before Thee rulers silent fall;  
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

O come, **Desire of nations**, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

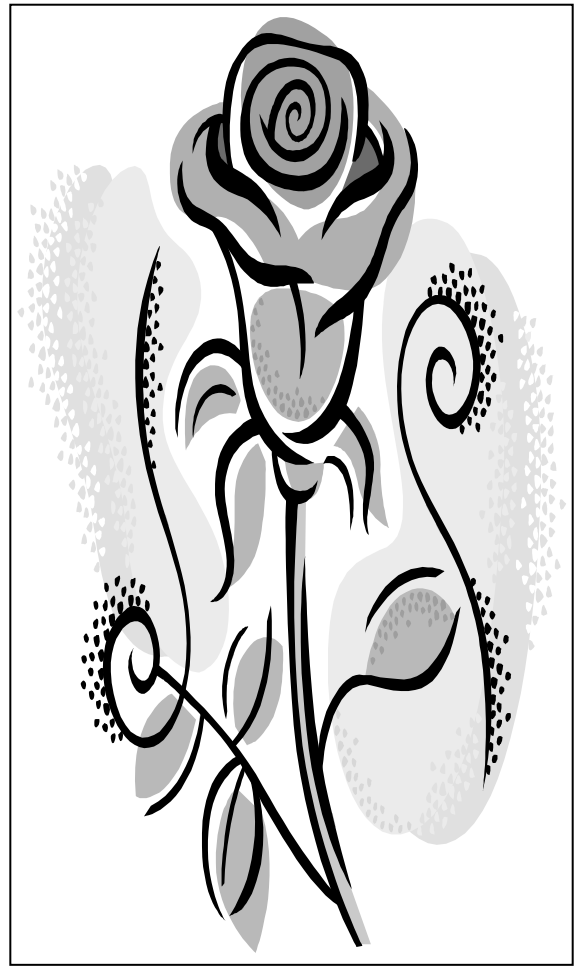
O come, O come, **Emmanuel**,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Why roses and joyful music on the third Sunday of Advent? It all starts with a golden rose. Long ago, the third Sunday of Advent was sort of a “break” in the fasting that was taking place before the celebration of Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent’s chants and songs talked about “looking up,” being “joy-filled and full of hope” at the nearness of the Savior. In church, the story of the Annunciation was common as the Gospel of the third Sunday of Advent.

The German name for the third Sunday of Advent was *Rosensonntag*, or the “Sunday of the Roses.” That name came as a result of 15<sup>th</sup> century German pilgrim’s witnessing Mass in Rome, where the Pope, after Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, would carry a golden rose in procession out of the church. The rose itself would be sent to an exemplary Christian after Mass that day as a gift.



This custom was in use at Rome as far back as the 11<sup>th</sup> century, where the Pope would present bouquets of roses to people in the church on the third Sunday of Advent. Over the years, the real roses were replaced by golden roses, often encrusted with jewels. In churches all over Christendom in the West, the custom of presenting roses to exemplary Christians of a particular place caught on. From there, the liturgical color for the day was changed to reflect the joy of the liturgy and the custom of presenting roses – the Church wore “old rose” as a way to signal the nearness of the Christmas festival.

Today, we sing joyful songs and meditate on the image of the rose – whose purity and beauty are reflected in the person of the Blessed Mother Mary, and whose fragrance and loveliness are reflected in the coming “rose of the winter night” – Jesus, Immanuel.

**A reflection for the Third Sunday in Advent  
Year A**



**Third Sunday *of* Advent**

“Are you the one who is to come... or should we look for another?”

Instead of simply answering “yes” or “no,” Jesus, in his typical fashion, instead gives a most startling response, intended to direct the questioner’s beyond where they would ever dare to look. Jesus’ answer is about an alternate reality – a reality where new things are taking place on account of his ministry... “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the Good News proclaimed to them!”

Jesus invites his questioners to look around and notice that his very presence is influencing all of reality. Things are changing. Things are new. The Good News can be seen and touched and celebrated in people’s lives.

Both the first reading from Isaiah and the Gospel selection point to an alternate vision of the world. This vision is about a time of fulfillment and it echoes with the theme of judgment that marked the first two Sundays of Advent. With today’s more joy-filled Advent celebration, we look to the “one who is to come” and away from the second coming of Christ. Yet turning to the festival of the Incarnation at Christmas should clobber us with the reality that the two comings of Christ – one in history, the other at the end of history – are actually one. The Incarnation is itself a judgment!

Jesus’ incarnation is not so much about the birth of a baby, although that is certainly part of the story. The mystery of the incarnation goes way beyond a physical birth. The incarnation – God-With-Us is about the ministry of Jesus... a ministry that changes reality for all time.

Living the Paschal Mystery means we are charged to take up where Jesus left off, to take up the mantle of ministry and to continue the “new” things of the Kingdom by the way we act, by the way we speak, and by the way we live our lives. It is an awesome, joyful, serious, scary, wonderful challenge... we are called to continue the ministry of the Lord, we are called to continue the mystery of the Incarnation. We are called to announce God’s judgment on the earth... not a condemnation or a rejection, but a judgment that makes God’s heart part of our own hearts.

“Look no further.. rejoice and lift up your head... your Savior comes to set you free...”



# 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

**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)

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

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

In Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is truly human and truly God. Healing actions prophesied by Isaiah—making the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame leap, as well as preaching the Good News to the poor—all tell John the Baptist who Jesus is. Jesus' loving actions continued to be completed by his followers today. Jesus calls us to be just and loving as he is, especially by helping people unable to help themselves. All the readings for this Sunday recall the themes of reconciliation and wholeness.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** This week the class learned to tell the Christmas story. They learned about Mary and Joseph's long trip to Bethlehem. Be sure to ask what they know about the people in the story and ask to see the ornament they drew for the Christmas story tree in this week's lesson. Don't forget to paste a new flaming candle on your child's little Advent wreath.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Your child's class discussed Mary and Joseph's long journey to Bethlehem. Ask them to tell your family about the different characters in the story. The class also learned about the Good News Jesus shares with us, and how he brings happiness and joy. Invite your child to tell you about Jesus helping the blind, the sick, and the poor. Talk together about who helps your family and the ways your family helps others.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** The class studied more of Isaiah's words that showed just what Good News Jesus brings to the world. Ask your child to tell you the story of Juan Diego, the beautiful lady, and the December roses. The

image of the Blessed Mother on Juan Diego's cloak is a reminder that Mary is a mother for all of us. Finally, the last page of this week's lesson features a little song from the Magnificat, the great prayer of praise from Mary. Ask your child what his or her favorite song about Jesus is. He or she can also explain who the Messiah is.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** Your youngster's class learned about the Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree. Consider having a Jesse Tree in your home. Let your child head up the project. Talk about the Gospel story of John the Baptist's disciples who came to ask Jesus if he was the One. Discuss the answer Jesus gave to the disciples. What good things did Jesus say about John the Baptist? Finally, let your child make suggestions for activities the family can do together to prepare for Christmas. He or she can use the Week 3 Calendar, on page 5, for ideas.

**Visions (Grades 7–9):** Your young person's class read the story, "A Different Kind of Success." Ask your youngster what the Minnesota robotics team in the story experienced last Christmas. The class also learned about Second Isaiah's hope for a peaceable world. Share ideas of how your family can be peacemakers in your home, Church, community, and world.

## Pray Together

As you say your Advent wreath prayer this week, include prayers for all the areas of the world where there is a need for peace. Family members can mention a need, and the whole family can respond: "Lord, make us all instruments of your peace."



# Bringing Home the Word +

Third Sunday of Advent (A)  
December 15, 2019

## Be Strong and Fear Not

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

John came to announce a savior, but in his difficult imprisonment, he and his disciples began to wonder if the one he announced was truly the one. Even after months spent in the desert preparing himself as well as preaching conversion, John's heart is tempted to doubt. Yes, even saints struggle. It is easy to doubt when difficulty comes our way and life doesn't treat us as we think we deserve.

John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. It does us much good to bring our concerns and doubts to Jesus directly! Jesus responds as he often does. Rather than just answer, "I am

he"—which could easily be considered an empty claim—he invites them to look at the evidence. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 35:5: "The eyes of the blind shall see, / and the ears of the deaf be opened," the poor shall find a new reason to hope.

Jesus' mission is to change lives and to save us from the blindness of egoism, the deafness of a hardened heart, and the closed mind that cannot accept the other. He is the savior of those who let themselves be saved.

Saint James' exhortation could have been meant for John the Baptist or anyone who finds it hard to persevere in trusting and following Jesus: "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:8). +

## Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10**

Be strong, do not fear! / Here is your God, / he comes with vindication; / With divine recompense / he comes to save you.

**James 5:7–10**

See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

**Matthew 11:2–11**

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"



*It is easy to doubt when  
difficulty comes our way.  
Yes, even saints struggle.*



## A Word from Pope Francis

Your music and your song are a true instrument of evangelization insofar as you witness to the profoundness of the Word of God that touches the hearts of people, and allows a celebration of the sacraments, especially of the Holy Eucharist, which makes one sense the beauty of paradise.

—International meeting of choirs,  
November 24, 2018



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What doubts about God arise in my heart?
- How do I deal with these moments of uncertainty?



# "Who then Can Be Saved?"

By Thomas H. Groome

This is the rhetorical question the disciples asked Jesus after he declared "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24). Their concern couldn't have been that they were rich; they were poor peasants.

Rather, they recognized that everyone needs salvation, that we cannot save ourselves, and that the camel is smaller to the needle's eye than our sinful baggage is to eternal life. Jesus replied, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Those first disciples believed that God was saving the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They embraced faith in Jesus as God's own Son and the Savior of all humanity, the divine intervention that redirected history toward God's reign. They remembered Jesus stating his own sense of purpose as life "more abundantly" (John 10:10), and they began to search for ways to communicate what this means for humanity and creation.

## Saved From, Saved For

Two key ideas emerged in Western Christianity—redemption and salvation—portraying Jesus as our Redeemer and Savior. From the Latin



"to buy back," *redemption* connotes that Jesus paid the price for our sins. From the Latin "to make safe," *salvation* means Jesus ensures our safety for eternal life. Both imply a negative condition from which we've been rescued and a positive possibility for which we are empowered.

Christians have faith that Jesus has saved us from the powers of sin and evil. He has saved us for living as his disciples, modeling "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Through faithful discipleship, our salvation begins now and is completed in God's eternal presence. By our baptism into union with Christ we access God's saving work in Jesus, and the Church is now God's "universal sacrament of salvation" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 48).

All who have faith in Christ and are baptized into union with him can be saved. Catholicism also emphasizes that Christian faith demands "good works," that we live the faith we profess. With the help of God's grace, we are accountable to follow "the way" that Jesus modeled. Apparently, God's final judgment will focus on our practical love, especially toward those in need (Matthew 25:31–46). Though discipleship is demanding, we take hope in the fact that Jesus has heightened God's mercy toward us.

## "Many Dwelling Places"

As Christians, we are confident of God's saving work in Christ. But then, if we are really Christians for whom neighbor knows no limits, we should be concerned about all those who don't come to faith in Jesus, for whatever reason. Can people of every religion (or no religion) be saved?

First, we firmly believe there is one mediator between God and the human race: Jesus. Yet we also remember Jesus saying that God's house has "many dwelling places" (John 14:2). In this light, Catholicism has consistently held that anyone can be saved by Christ through "baptism of desire." This means that all people who do God's will—as best they know it—have a virtual desire for baptism and thus are saved by their implicit faith in Jesus.

When explaining how all people are saved by Jesus and "associated with this paschal mystery," the Second Vatican Council simply said that the Holy Spirit brings this about "in a manner known only to God" (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [*Gaudium et Spes*], 22). Or, as Jesus himself said, "for God, all things are possible." +



*Lord, you are patient with me and give me time to correct my faults and become a better person. Help me to be more patient and loving toward others.*

—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 16–21

**Monday**, Advent Weekday:  
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a / Mt 21:23–27


**Tuesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

**Wednesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Jer 23:5–8 / Mt 1:18–25

**Thursday**, Advent Weekday:  
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25

**Friday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

**Saturday**, Advent Weekday:  
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 15, 2019

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