



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, January 19, 2020
Second Sunday In
Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation You Are Mine BB 456

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Here I Am, Lord BB 373
Eye Has Not Seen BB 461

Recessional: All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name
BB 713

10:00 AM

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 414
Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 40)

*Here am I, O God, I come to do your will.
Here am I, I come to do your will.*

Preparation You Are Mine BB 546
Eye Has Not Seen BB 461

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Here I Am, Lord BB 456
Song Of The Body Of Christ BB 331

Recessional: Though The Mountains May Fall BB 441



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaiستow** 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!

January 12, 2020

**Offertory \$6,139.68
Seminarian Fund \$1,627.25**

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

January 19, 2020 Fuel
January 26, 2020 No Second Collection
February 2, 2020 Property Management
February 9, 2020 Catholic Schools

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



**Suggested Weekly Contribution
Based on Income**

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

**Suggested Weekly Contribution
Based on a Percentage Increase**

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

PAINT THE TOWN!

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to
Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2019, please call Jackie at the Parish Office at 382-8324. Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 20. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 21 at 8:30 AM.

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

AMAZON SMILE

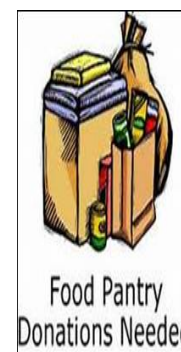
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish was issued a \$47.13 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2019.

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.amazon.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST 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 WINTER...

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Sunday, January 19

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*

Monday, January 20
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 21

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, January 22
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, January 23

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

Saturday, January 25

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 26

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Meeting for Grade 3 Parents and Students *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

✠ **MASS INTENTIONS** ✠

Saturday, January 18 ~ Vigil / 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

4:00 PM Mary Sofka, Thomas Hofbauer, and John Hofbauer (Birthday Remembrance) by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Sunday, January 19 ~ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

8:00 AM Linda Doty by Paula and Stephen Fournier
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

Monday, January 20 ~ Fabian, Pope and Martyr:
Sebastian, Martyr

1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, January 21 ~ Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

8:00 AM Frances Fleming by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Wednesday, January 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6

6:30 PM Mary Murphy (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, January 23 ~ Marianne Cope, Virgin:
Vincent, Deacon and Martyr

1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12

8:00 AM Linda Doty by Paula and Stephen Fournier
Newton

Friday January 24 ~ Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19
 No Mass

Saturday, January 25 ~ Conversion of Paul, Apostle
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18 (Day)
Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 18; Mt 4:12-23 (Vigil)

4:00 PM June and Bud Wizst by Tina Bonnell and family
Plaistow

Sunday, January 26 ~ 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 18; Mt 4:12-23

8:00 AM Henry Boursier by Carrie Phillips
Newton

10:00 AM Timothy J. Holland by his parents
Plaistow

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, February 19 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 ✠

ST. ANDREW DINNERS

Men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or who would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, are invited to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocation Team, and Dinner. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at rvinson@rcbm.org if you would like to attend.

February 21 – Young Men ages 13-18
February 28 – Men Ages 19-60

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, February 2, 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.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

ADORATION

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

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

Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

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

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

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324	Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314	Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315	Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949	Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Preschool	382-9783	Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744	Val Barczak	mvbarczak@comcast.net
		Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
		Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

VITA NOVA WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020
March 13-15, 2020

As Catholics, we believe in the communion of saints, a spiritual solidarity binding together the faithful on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the saints in Heaven. Join us as we journey "the little way" of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and reflect on the examples of other great saints who devoted their lives to Jesus. The retreat will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH and will be led by Fr. Rick St. Louis on Friday evening through Sunday morning (**March 13-15, 2020**). Register early! Prices will increase by \$25 on February 21, 2020. Financial Aid is available. To register, go to www.vitanova.org.

FROM ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY

As we enter a new year, we would like to take the time to sincerely thank all those who support the Food Pantry during the holidays and throughout the year with monetary donations, donations of food, and your generosity and willingness to buy and wrap gifts for the local families who depend on the Christmas Giving tree to provide gifts for their families. We are extremely grateful to our parish members and community that support our efforts to help those in our towns that reach out to us.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to all of the volunteers who give their time and energy selflessly throughout the year and especially during the very busy holiday seasons. We try to service the local families as best as we can, but we could not do as much as we do without their help and dedication. Thank you, thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Joe and Marie Farren

MORE THAN SAD

The More Than Sad family of programs has taught over a million students, parents, and educators how to be smart about mental health. Learn how to recognize signs of depression and other mental health problems, initiate a conversation, and get him or her help. Seminars are scheduled **January 27** in Farmington. For more information, please email cproulx@rcbm.org or call 603-663-0195.

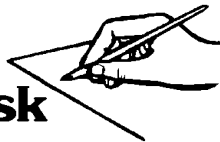
WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

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. **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.**

**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

**From the
Pastor's Desk**



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

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.

WELCOME!!!!

WOMEN AND MEN

for

Breakfast &

a talk

by Sr. Deborah, osf

TOPIC:

“BE REAL”

Please join us on Saturday, February 1, at 9 a.m., with a snow date of February 8, in the Church Hall. We will come together for breakfast, a talk, and faith sharing. We will close our sharing by 12 noon. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail the office at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net by, Monday, January 27, or call the office at 382-8324.

(There will be a free will offering that will be donated to The Little Sisters of Saint Francis.)

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 1:29-34

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist announces the beginning of Jesus' ministry. John gives us a picture of who Jesus is and what he has come to do. The lamb, the animal that symbolizes the Israelite's liberation from Egypt, shows that Jesus' mission is to give his life for us. The Gospels show us that Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit of God from the beginning of his ministry. This week, your family will learn to recognize the Spirit of God in your family life and in the life of the Church.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child has learned that the five senses are great gifts for experiencing God's creation. Talk with your child about the ways we learn about creation through sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. We learn about the world in the same way Jesus did when he was on Earth.

Promise (Grades K-1): In this week's lesson, John the Baptist tells your child that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' spirit is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with you and your child. Discuss ways your child can share the Holy Spirit with others.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned this week that Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit of God. Ask your child to tell you all how John the Baptist recognized Jesus. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helps your family to be good and faithful Church members. Ask how others can know your child's class has the Holy Spirit, and whether your child's actions show how the Spirit works in him or her.

Venture (Grades 4-6): The class explored the meaning of each of the Seven Sacraments and how they are signs of Jesus' presence in the world today. As a family, talk about each of the sacraments. Invite your child to share some of the biblical symbols they discovered in class. Your child may also like to share the story of Saint John Bosco with the family. Research more about this saint who helped young people.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week's lesson focused the class's attention on the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. Your student began by exploring people's needs, especially those who live in poverty. Invite your son or daughter to share with the family some of the principles he or she has learned. As a family, talk about how aware you are of the social Gospel of the Church. Share ways in which you and your family can be more aware of how your actions reflect the Gospel commitment to justice, solidarity, and peace.

Pray Together

Try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. During the prayer, invite the Holy Spirit into your family and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be faithful members of the Church. At the end of the prayer, let every family member mark each other on the forehead with the Sign of the Cross.



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 19, 2020

New Life

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

An elaborate fresco titled *Baptism of Christ* by Perugino, Michelangelo’s art teacher, is found on the wall of the Sistine Chapel. Like the other frescoes in this sacred space, this panel contains multiple scenes. The central scene is the baptism of Jesus. The viewer clearly sees Jesus standing in the water, with John the Baptist next to him, pouring water over his head.

God the Father is above, ready to declare that this is his beloved Son. The Holy Spirit comes down upon Jesus in the form of a dove. It was the Spirit

who helped John know that this was the Messiah, the one sent by God to baptize with the Holy Spirit.

After his baptism, Jesus is sent out to preach and teach. The fresco reveals that Perugino has read his Bible: in the scene to the right Jesus is shown preaching to the multitudes. John the Baptist’s mission changes, too. He goes from preparing for the coming of the Messiah to following and testifying about him. This is what the baptized do: the new life we are given calls and strengthens us to offer that new life to others.

At our baptism, we were sanctified, forgiven our sins, incorporated into the body of Christ, and given a mission to share this baptism with others. In fact, the last words of Jesus before his ascension were, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20). +

This is what the baptized do: the new life we are given calls and strengthens us to offer new life to others.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 49:3, 5–6

I will make you a light to the nations, / that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

1 Corinthians 1:1–3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:29–34

[John the Baptist said,] “Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

A Word from Pope Francis

“What about you?” It is significant that these words of the elderly Pope [Leo XIII] were also addressed to a laywoman [Katharine Drexel]. We know that the future of the Church in a rapidly changing society will call, and even now calls, for a much more active engagement on the part of the laity.

—Mass with bishops, clergy, and religious of Pennsylvania, September 26, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How willing am I to share about Jesus and what he means to me?
- Do I have family or friends in doubt about baptizing their child? How can I kindly encourage them?

Fairness vs. Generosity

By Gregory F. Augustine Pierce

My three children, now teenagers, have always insisted that my wife and I be fair in our dealings with them. By fair, of course, they mean that we treat them absolutely equally.

“That’s not fair,” they point out with great regularity when one of them gets something the others didn’t: “He got to eat out and I didn’t. She got to stay out late and I had to come home early.” These minor injustices seem to be the ultimate in unfairness to them.

“Which would you rather have, fairness or generosity?” I often ask them. For many years they consistently chose fairness, but lately they have begun to consider the positive aspects of generosity.

There are many. For one thing, fairness implies a minimal, lowest-common-denominator kind of arrangement. If each child has to have exactly the same amount of everything—money, time, attention—then it seems that all parents can do is dole out their resources with one eye on the balance scale and the other on the bottom line.

Generosity, on the other hand, allows for the spontaneous gesture, the extravagant expenditure, the once-in-a-lifetime experience. Generosity is more fun, exciting, and unexpected

than fairness—and therefore more interesting. Fairness, on the other hand, is predictable, uninspiring, and subject to a lot of boring recordkeeping.

At work, too, most of us would settle for simple fairness. There is so much injustice, inequality, lying, and cheating in the workplace that the idea of a fair wage or an evenhanded employer has great appeal.

Operating by New Rules

Consider a job where fairness was assumed

and generosity was the goal. In such an environment, “How generous can we afford to be?” would be the driving force. Rather than minimizing salaries or benefits, employers would try to find ways to share with employees whatever wealth or profit was available. Customers would not be asked to pay the maximum the market would bear for minimum-quality products. Parties in negotiation would not try to win the best deal possible for themselves but would attempt to fashion win-win situations for all involved.

“That’s ridiculous,” you might say. “That’s not the way the world works.” But today’s parable of the workers in the vineyard suggests that generosity is the way God would have things. In



describing God’s reign, Jesus told the story of the workers who were hired at various times of the day and yet were paid the same.

Just as my children did earlier, the workers who were hired early in the day complained that the owner was not being fair. He pointed out, however, that each of them had been paid a just wage—one they had agreed to—but that he was free to be generous. “Are you envious because I am generous?” he asked.

Exactly. Many of us think that fairness is the best that we can get, and we’re not eager to give generosity a try.

Living the Kingdom—Now

But God’s reign is supposed to be “on earth as it is in heaven,” as Jesus prayed in the Our Father. That means that the way things are in heaven—in this case, generosity over fairness—is the way things should also be on earth. If we want the reign of God in our families and workplaces, then we must at least try to operate this world by the rules of the next, where “the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

That’s lucky for all of us because, as my friend, Fr. Bill Burke, has observed, “We were all hired at 5 in the afternoon.” +

PRAYER

Lord, may your light of love and peace shine brightly in my heart so that others may come to know of your goodness.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 20–25

Monday, Weekday:
1 Sm 15:16–23 / Mk 2:18–22


Tuesday, St. Agnes:
1 Sm 16:1–13 / Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 / Mk 3:7–12

Friday, St. Francis de Sales:
1 Sm 24:3–21 / Mk 3:13–19

Saturday, Conversion of St. Paul:
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

January 19, 2020

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