



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 26, 2020  
Third Sunday In  
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM

Gathering: Sing A New Song BB 545

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Pescador de Hombres BB 502

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Remember Your Love BB 651  
The Supper Of The Lord BB 350

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission  
BB 382

10:00 AM

Gathering: Sing A New Song BB 545

Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid; of whom  
should I be afraid*

Preparation Remember Your Love BB 651  
We Remember BB 493

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Pescador de Hombres BB 502  
I Am The Bread Of Life BB 362

Recessional: Blest Be The Lord BB 430



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!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
JANUARY 19, 2020  
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

January 26, 2020	No Second Collection
February 2, 2020	Property Management
February 9, 2020	Catholic Schools
February 16, 2020	Fuel

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.**



#### BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 11-12**. Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

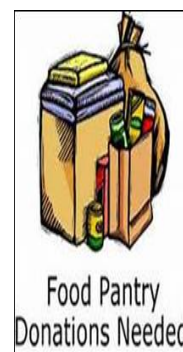
ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

#### 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 for each is \$10.00.

#### 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.



#### AMAZON SMILE

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

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

#### 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, January 26**

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

**Wednesday, January 29**  
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN**  
**ALL DAY FOR PRAYER**

**Thursday, January 30**

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

**Saturday, February 1**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Prayer Breakfast with Sr. Deborah	<i>Plaistow</i>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>

**Sunday, February 2**

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

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, January 25 ~ Vigil / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 18; Mt 4:12-23*  
**4:00 PM** June and Bud Wizst by Tina Bonnell and family  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 26 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

**Monday, January 27 ~ Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder**  
*2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30*  
**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, January 28 ~ Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
*2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35*  
**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
*Plaistow*

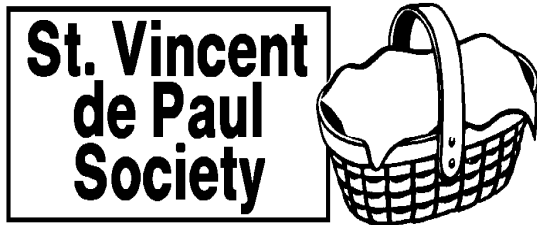
**Wednesday, January 29 ~ Weekday**  
*2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20*  
**6:30 PM** Paul F. O'Leary by Colleen and Mark Hammond  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, January 30 ~ Weekday**  
*2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25*  
**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Friday January 31 ~ John Bosco, Priest**  
*2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34*  
*No Mass*

**Saturday, February 1 ~ Weekday**  
*2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41 (Day)*  
*Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 (Vigil)*  
**4:00 PM** John Brooks Knowles, Jr. by the Parish  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, February 2 ~ The Presentation of the Lord**  
*Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40*  
**8:00 AM** Michael and Mary Edward by their family  
*Newton*  
**10:00 AM** Louis Peterson by Janice Bettencourt  
*Plaistow*



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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, 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](mailto: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](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
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Parish Council

<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
<a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



✠ 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](http://www.vitanova.org).

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much!!! Kimberly's 14th Annual Holiday Give Away is now complete and was a huge success! This year our team received 4,700 lbs. of clothing amongst boxes of food items and books, and we were able to cater to 9 different donation sites. The volunteers who came out to help were a fantastic reason why we were able to make such a substantial impact on this community!!! I am truly honored to be a small piece of this organization and overwhelmingly proud with the result of a community coming together for good.

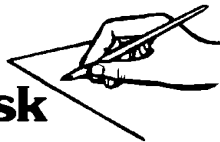
May God bless you all and we will see you next year!

Kimberly Clenord

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS**

The Rockingham VNA & Hopsice is offering six-week interactive support groups in Epping and Exeter which provides an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment in order to explore the grieving process and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one. All groups are free and open to the public. To register, or for more information, call Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at 603-772-2981.

**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.

**HOLY FAMILY, MIGRANT FAMILY**

**A Prayer Service Where Love  
Knows No Walls**

Commemorate those whose lives have been impacted by the recent immigration policies and affirm the dignity of all immigrants and refugees

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7:00PM**

St. Augustin Church, 382 Beach St., Manchester

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)

# **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](mailto: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: Matthew 4:12-23

The Gospel places the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, where he spent his time teaching, proclaiming God's Kingdom, and healing the sick. Galilee is situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee, and many people who lived there were fishermen. Jesus invited his new friends here to drop their nets and follow him. He promised them that they would now be fishing for people instead of fish.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child has learned to appreciate what it means to make friends. Make sure that your child has a clear understanding of ways he or she can be of help to friends and family members. Talk about how being a good friend and member of the family is a good way of following Jesus.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child explored Jesus' work of making friends and calling people together. Jesus calls all of us to make friends, too. Talk to your child about the importance of friends and the need for friendly, loving actions toward other people. Remind one another that such actions bond together the Christian community and the human family.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** In class, your child learned a little about the geography of where Jesus grew up and lived. Ask your child to share the map and tell the family about how Jesus called people to follow him. Discuss times when family members have been called to do something or to be somewhere. What are some ways your family answers Jesus' call to follow him.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your child's class learned that Jesus began his mission in his home territory of Galilee. Invite your child to share some details about Galilee with the family. Talk about how Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him. Why did these people drop everything to follow Jesus? Share how Jesus calls your family and how you try to follow him. Talk about ways you can help one another be better followers of Jesus. Ask your young person about Saint John Bosco.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** Your youngster's class learned about the characteristics of Galilee's land and people from the time of Jesus. Understanding where Jesus lived helped the class see Jesus in his historical setting. Invite your child to share with the family what archaeology can teach about Jesus' message. Ask them to share at least one example of God calling one of his prophets or disciples in the Bible.

### Pray Together

Even the youngest children can understand the need for silence. Invite all the members of your families to share a few moments of silent prayer. A good time to do this is just before a family meal, but it can be anytime the whole family is together. You can all hold hands. An adult can remind the family that Jesus calls all of you to follow him. Then spend anywhere from 30 seconds to a minute in silent prayer. (Remember that a minute of silence can feel pretty long to a young child.)



# Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020!** This Lent, Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish invites all to renew their faith by participating in the Church's annual retreat time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This year we are pleased to, once again, utilize the **"Disciples on The Journey"** book for our text.

What is the Lenten Journey about?

**It is about prayer!** Today we begin with prayer as our 2020 Lenten Journey program gets underway. Begin to pray in an active way about the upcoming Lenten season. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's Lenten Journey through the desert be blessed.

**Consider a small group!** Groups meet during Lent to discuss the upcoming Lenten Sunday Readings, and to share member's experiences of discipleship. We will use a text that follows the Sunday Lenten readings published by the Office of Catechetical Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, TX. Adults, Families and Youth will learn more about Scripture, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

FREE Teen AND Family downloads are available for **Disciples on the Journey** by visiting [www.disciplesonthejourney.org](http://www.disciplesonthejourney.org) El web-site para *Disciples on the Journey* proporciona secciones adicionales gratis para jóvenes y familia.

**What else?** During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.



**Small Group sign-ups begin next weekend, February 2!  
Registration Forms will be in the bulletin.**

**Group Meetings begin the week of February 23.**



# CREMATION?

**While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: “The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.” (CIC, c. 1176.3)**

***When is Cremation Allowed?*** Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

***If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?***

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

***Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?***

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

***What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?***

**Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned.** They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.



**On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. The inspiring full text of his Apostolic Letter, “*Aperuit illis*: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God” outlines the Holy Father’s thoughts on the Word of God in the life of the Church. In its inaugural year, this Sunday falls on January 26, 2020.**

## Sharing the Word of God at Home

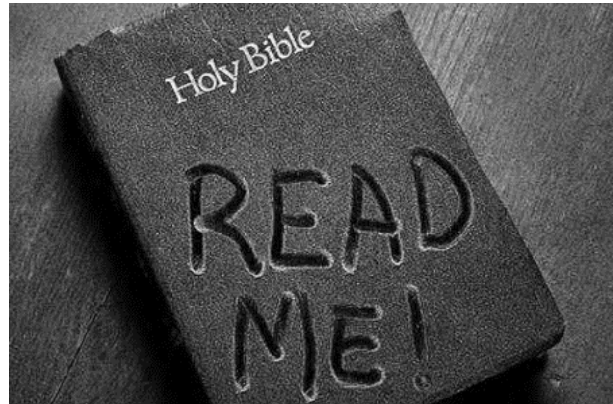
On the popular public television program *Antiques Roadshow*, people from around the country bring their treasures to be appraised by various experts. An antique might be a cherished family heirloom displayed proudly in a prominent place in the home, or a long-forgotten trinket gathering dust on a shelf in the attic. Whatever the item, the owner is usually surprised to hear the expert’s comments. The appraiser might put a low-price tag on something the owner thought had great value. And what was originally purchased for a few dollars sometimes turns out to be a prized collector’s item now valued at thousands of dollars. Take a look around your home. What is your family’s most valued possession? Is it an object, a person, a relationship? How does your family express delight and pride in this treasured possession?

The Second Vatican Council teaches that “the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s Word” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*], no. 51, in *Vatican Council II: Volume 1: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, new rev. ed., ed. Austin Flannery [Northport, NY: Costello Publishing, 1996]). Do we consider the Bible a treasure, a special table around which the family gathers? Is the family Bible among your home’s most valuable possessions? As we consider practical ways to share the Word of God at home, perhaps we will be surprised to discover that the family Bible, regardless of whether it is prominently displayed or is gathering dust on an attic shelf, is one of the most valuable spiritual treasures in a Christian home.

## A Living and Effective Word

“Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern the reflections and thoughts of the heart,” writes the author of the Letter to the Hebrews (4:12). God’s Word is “living and effective” because we welcome it, in the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2nd ed.), “not as a human word, ‘but as what it really is, the word of God’” ([Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000], no. 104, quoting 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

But how is the Word of God to become “living and effective” in our homes, in our families, in our professional and social relationships? Here are a few practical ways to make the treasures of the Bible into a table at which your family is nourished and strengthened for the Christian life.



## Reading, Reflecting, Renewing

Begin to break open God’s Word in your home by dedicating some family time each week for a brief reading of a Scripture passage, perhaps the Sunday Gospel. Given the hectic and stressed pace of life and our typically overworked schedules, making family time for the Bible reminds us

of the need to put God first. Gathering around the table of God’s Word enriches and strengthens the experience of family as a “domestic Church.” Choose a comfortable and quiet place in the home, away from the distractions of television and ringing telephones. Read the passage aloud, and then allow some time for the family to reflect on and share its meaning together. Since Sacred Scripture is the “speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, no. 81, quoting Second Vatican Council, *Dei Verbum*, no. 9), this time dedicated to reading puts your family into living communication with God. Remind everyone gathered that this family activity brings them to a living encounter with Christ, who is present as the Word among them.

## Practical Resources

In recent years Catholic Bible study resources have become more readily available. Choose a study aid that is user-friendly and suited to the ages of children in the family. Rely on those resources as aids, not as substitutes, for reading the words of Scripture itself. No resource, however well written, can replace reading God’s Word. Introduce children to the *New American Bible* (NAB) translation of the Sacred Scriptures once they receive First Holy Communion. While the *New American Bible* was not translated with children specifically in mind, it is the basis of the readings proclaimed at Mass. This relationship of the *New American Bible* to the liturgy means it is invaluable for affirming children in the faith of the Church: it allows them to make the connection between what is proclaimed and heard in the liturgy with what is read in the home. Parents with young children are encouraged to include as many Bible stories as possible in a child’s library and to devote time to reading and discussing the rich levels of meaning in the sacred stories. When children, with their natural capacity for awe and wonder, marvel at the biblical stories, they can be led to connect the story of their life and their family to the story of salvation itself. Biblical stories and figures who reveal human weakness and sinfulness provide opportunities to discuss, at age-appropriate levels, the realities of human experience in the light of God’s love and mercy.



## Praying the Scriptures with the Church

Couples and parents with children can also choose to integrate family prayer time with the reading of Scripture. The Liturgy of the Hours is biblical in content and inspirational through and through. So when praying the Liturgy of the Hours as a family, whether Morning or Evening Prayer, your family participates in the common and universal prayer of the Church. Again, several handy resources are available to make the daily praying of Morning and Evening Prayer simple and sustainable. Another practical way to break open God's Word in the home is through the practice of *lectio divina*. This ancient Christian practice is being recovered in our time, and it was particularly encouraged by the 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church. Through a series of steps—reading, meditation, contemplation, and prayer—*lectio divina* allows the Word of God to bear rich spiritual fruit in the lives of the faithful. Your family can also experience the riches of God's Word by adapting this ancient approach to a meditative and prayerful reading of Scripture in the home. Several handy resources, in print and online, explain the steps of *lectio divina* with practical adaptations for the family. A good place to start is the article "Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Art and Practice of *Lectio Divina*," included among the 2009 Catechetical Sunday materials available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday](http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday). Another often overlooked source for praying with Scripture is the variety of traditional Catholic prayers, such as the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Rosary. These prayers, being rooted in the Bible, can help families contemplate the wisdom of Scripture and the life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels.

Finally, one practical way to make the Scriptures come alive is to assign a family member to gather artistic images that convey and express the biblical themes of a particular Scripture passage. Let a painting, sculpture, stained glass, or piece of sacred music serve as a reference point for reflection on God's Word as it takes artistic form in the Christian tradition.

## From Hearing to Living God's Word

The lives of the saints are filled with examples of holy men and women who have translated God's Word into action. In fact, one could say that the life of a saint is like a good Bible commentary. The saints stand out because of their unique and graced capacity to be not only hearers but doers of God's Word (see Jas 1:22). In the faith, hope, and love of the saints, God's Word—recorded in the pages of the Bible—comes alive in the book of life. Take St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church, and the powerful story of his conversion. In the twelfth chapter of book eight of his *Confessions*, Augustine recounts a turning point in his life as he tearfully struggles with his personal and intellectual past. While sitting in a garden, he heard the voice of a child chanting over and over again, "Take it and read, take it and read." Turning to pick up a Bible that he had set down only moments earlier, he read a passage from the writings of St. Paul that called him away from the life he once led. He goes on to write, "I had no wish to read more and no need to do so. For in an instant, as I came to the end of the sentence, it was as though the light of confidence flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt was dispelled" (trans. R. S. Pine-Coffin [London: Penguin Books, 1961], 177-178). The rest of Augustine's life and work was spent living out the meaning of God's word.

# Feeding Your Family Food for the Soul

Recent surveys have shown that few Catholics read the Bible on their own or as a family. But what better place is there to encounter the person of Jesus Christ than in God's Word? As St. Jerome once noted, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." The Church continually invites us to return to God's Word. For when we pray with the Bible—personally and in our homes—our encounter with the living Word of God is not a mere intellectual exercise but a spiritually nourishing feast. As we find ways to share God's Word in our homes we will experience firsthand what the Second Vatican Council means in *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)* when it states that "in the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them. And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigor, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life" (no. 21, in Flannery).

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# 10

## POINTS FOR READING THE BIBLE



By Mary Elizabeth Sperry,  
Associate Director for Utilization of  
the New American Bible.

The Bible is all around us. People hear Scripture readings in church. We have Good Samaritan (Luke 10) laws, welcome home the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), and look for the Promised Land (Exodus 3, Hebrews 11). Some biblical passages have become popular maxims, such as “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12),” “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15), and “love thy neighbor” (Matthew 22:39).

Today’s Catholic is called to take an intelligent, spiritual approach to the Bible. Listed here are 10 points for fruitful Scripture reading.

- 1. Bible reading is for Catholics.** The Church encourages Catholics to make reading the Bible part of their daily prayer lives. Reading these inspired words, people grow deeper in their relationship with God and come to understand their place in the community God has called them to in himself.
- 2. Prayer is the beginning and the end.** Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or a history book. It should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should end with a prayer that this Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become holier and more faithful people.
- 3. Get the whole story! When selecting a Bible, look for a Catholic edition.** A Catholic edition will include the Church's complete list of sacred books along with introductions and notes for understanding the text. A Catholic



edition will have an *imprimatur* notice on the back of the title page. An *imprimatur* indicates that the book is free of errors in Catholic doctrine.

4. **The Bible isn't a book. It's a library.** The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey.
5. **Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't.** The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.
6. **The sum is greater than the parts.** Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after – even in other books – helps us to understand the true meaning of the text.
7. **The Old relates to the New.** The Old Testament and the New Testament shed light on each other. While we read the Old Testament in light of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it has its own value as well. Together, these testaments help us to understand God's plan for human beings.
8. **You do not read alone.** By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God's Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.
9. **What is God saying to me?** The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?
10. **Reading is not enough.** If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be “living and effective.”(Hebrews 4:12).





# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

January 26, 2020

## His First Followers

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We began the Church year with the foundations of our Christian life. We focused on our baptismal call to preach the word of God. Now we focus on the call of the first apostles.

The last part of today's Gospel reading, about Jesus calling his first disciples, is displayed in a painting in the Sistine Chapel, *Calling of the Apostles* by Domenico Ghirlandaio. In the artwork, The Sea of Galilee spreads out behind Jesus, who is front and center. Several towns line the shore and remind us of Capernaum, where Jesus lived and near the area where he called his first followers.

Two apostles kneel in front of Jesus; another pair stand behind him. Their gestures and postures reveal their interior attitudes. One apostle crosses his arms in acceptance while another prayerfully looks up at Jesus. The third apostle, behind Jesus, has his hand at his chest as if to say, "Are you sure you want me?" The fourth seems to look away. Many others surround Jesus, but not all of them are called to be apostles.

The call of Jesus is real. He may not ask us to leave behind our business or family, but he does ask for the same totality of trust and following. The result of fully saying yes to this call is what the first reading proclaims: "You have brought them abundant joy / and great rejoicing; / They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest..." (Isaiah 9:2). The Joy of the Gospel that Pope Francis proclaimed in his 2013 apostolic exhortation is exactly this: that joy that comes from a sincere and generous yes to Jesus' call to be a disciple. +

*Jesus may not ask us to leave behind our business or family, but he asks for the same totality of trust.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

It deeply troubles me when I see a timetable in a parish: "From such a time to such a time." ...Don't worry about the timetable: have the courage to look past the timetable. In this way, dear deacons, if you show that you are available to others, your ministry will not be self-serving, but evangelically fruitful.

—Jubilee of deacons, May 29, 2016



## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 8:23—9:3

The people who walked in darkness / have seen a great light.

### 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

### Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Jesus asks us to leave all and put him first. How can I do that better this week?
- Am I listening for God's call in my day-to-day life?



# Elected By God

By Richard Rohr, OFM

God is always selecting people in the Bible, but in disconcerting ways. There seems to be no previous preparation or proven holiness—often not even willingness among those specially chosen.

Biblical chosenness does not seem to mean that we are anything special; instead, it reminds us of the specialness all creatures share. It is seldom saying we are especially good; it is always saying God is good. It is never saying that we are inherently qualified for chosenness but that God wants

to give us an experience of unearned chosenness or “beloved” status. That way we can know what chosenness really feels like and can better communicate that experience to others.

Starting with the Chosen People themselves, beloved status prepares them to communicate it to the whole world. God chose the Jews not because he loved them better than anybody, but to lead them through a forty-year training exercise so they could be a transformative template that would challenge all religion in every age.

Yet the history of religion is that most of us refuse to go on the full journey and, instead, stay deadlocked at early-stage superiority. We somehow believe that we are chosen, right, saved. But often, this

belief does not progress into a generative journey for others—a sympathy for others’ journeys or a belief in the beauty of other religions.

Biblical election is an inclusive chosenness because it is dealing with an infinite God in whom all things cohere. Egocentric chosenness is always exclusive and arrogant, as if there wasn’t enough to go around.



## Mary: Archetype of Chosenness

All the chosen figures I know from the Bible—Moses, Jacob, Joseph, Esther, Judith, Peter,

Paul—are flawed individuals unprepared for God’s call. They are chosen in their lowliness. There is only one case where the pattern is seemingly different, although it is not really different as much as distilled, concise, and utterly clear.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the archetype of chosenness. The Greek word that is used when Gabriel visits Mary (Luke 1:29) is a rare verb form that could be translated: “Hail, Chosenness Itself!” Favor says much more about the one doing the favoring than the one receiving the favor. All we can do is receive chosenness. All we can do is accept that we are accepted, which is harder than we think! This becomes the central biblical theme of grace.

## Ideal Vessel

Until Mary, most of the central chosen Bible figures were men. In Mary we have the ideal vessel, who personifies the state of perfectly received favor from God. There is nothing in the biblical text that says she was worthy, prepared, or had earned this favor. It is given by God, and her glory is that she accepts being used as a “handmaid.”

Mary knows her Jewish tradition, and knows how God works. She knows how Yahweh, the God of Israel, consistently chooses an enslaved race, forgotten sons, barren women, and unprepared laypeople so they can revel in their totally gratuitous election. And God gets all the glory! Mary knows that it is always a statement of God’s goodness, not ours. As some later mystics put it, it is almost as if God was waiting for a perfectly receptive bride—and God found her in Mary of Nazareth. She receives the Divine Kiss, and swoons in gratitude and fertility: Jesus. That is all. That is everything.

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Luke 1:49) becomes her motto. Mary looked at God’s goodness and refused to be preoccupied with her own. +



*Lord, you are the source of peace and unity. Fill me with the desire and courage to be your instrument of peace and love.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 27–February 1

**Monday, Weekday:**

2 Sm 5:1–7, 10 / Mk 3:22–30

**Tuesday, St. Thomas Aquinas:**

2 Sm 6:12b–15, 17–19 / Mk 3:31–35

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

2 Sm 7:4–17 / Mk 4:1–20

**Thursday, Weekday:**

2 Sm 7:18–19, 24–29 / Mk 4:21–25

**Friday, St. John Bosco:**

2 Sm 11:1–4a, 5–10a, 13–17 / Mk 4:26–34

**Saturday, Weekday:**

2 Sm 12:1–7a, 10–17 / Mk 4:35–41