



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: As We Gather BB 312
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 525
Mass Parts Mass of Creation
Communion Ubi Caritas BB 326
I Received The Living God BB 325
Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 381

10:00 AM

Gathering: Blest Be The Lord BB 430
Dismissal Rite: You Have Called Us BB 636
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)

*Lord, you have the words of everlasting
life.*

Preparation Come Worship The Lord BB 304
Glory And Praise To Our God BB 547
Mass Parts Mass of Creation
Communion Ubi Caritas BB 479
In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 323
Recessional: We Are The Light Of The World BB 591



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!

February 9, 2020

Offertory \$6,055.93
Catholic Schools \$1,460.25

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

February 16, 2020 Fuel
February 23, 2020 No Second Collection
February 26, 2020 Aid to Churches Europe/Africa
March 1, 2020 Property Management

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 Presidents' Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 17. The Office will re-open at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 18.

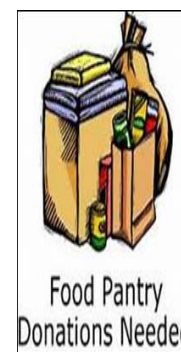
ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

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. 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.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, February 16

PREPARE CHURCHES FOR LENT

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

Monday, February 17
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, February 18

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, February 19
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN
ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, February 20

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

Saturday, February 22

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, February 23

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM RCIA *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Family Mardi Gras Celebration *Plaistow*
12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, February 15 ~ Vigil / 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

4:00 PM Florence and Ray Cooper by their family
Plaistow

Sunday, February 16 ~ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

8:00 AM Isabelle Krafton by her family
Newton

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

Monday, February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders of the
Servite Order

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

8:00 AM Margaret Krafton by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, February 18 ~ Weekday

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

8:00 AM Sr. Elizabeth Anne, osf by Nancy and Jerry Lee
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 19 ~ Weekday

Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Thursday, February 20 ~ Weekday

Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33

8:00 AM Nancy Guijardo by Grace Bukowski
Newton

Friday February 21 ~ Peter Damian, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church

Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34—9:1

No Mass

Saturday, February 22 ~ Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19 (Day)

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Michael A. Delcore by Joan Delcore
Plaistow

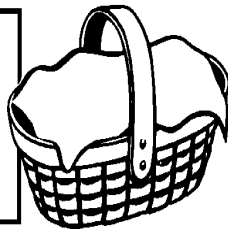
Sunday, February 23 ~ 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

8:00 AM Dolores Mealey by the Knights of Columbus
Newton

10:00 AM People of the Parish
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, March 1, 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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating an anniversary in 2020 of 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 55+ years, to attend the Spring Wedding Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on **Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester.

To register, please contact your parish office **by March 20, 2020**. The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information.

Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. We look forward to seeing you at this spring's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

Couples celebrating anniversaries of 5, 25, or 50 years will be asked to register later for a Fall celebration.

To all other married couples, congratulations!

ADORATION

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

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

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

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

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

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

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

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvbarczak@comcast.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.

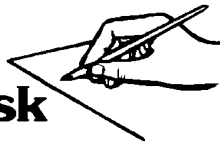
TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Travel with Fr. Shawn M. Therrien, Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Claremont, NH and Vicar General of the Diocese of Manchester, and Deacon Dominic Peter Cerrato to the Holy Land on **April 15-25, 2020**. Sites that will be visited are Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Via Crucis, Last Supper, Gethsemane, Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nativity Church, Capernaum, and Tel Aviv. Cost is \$4,099.00 which includes airfare. To register, contact 855-842-8001 or 508-340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO VOICE OPPOSITION TO ASSISTED SUICIDE

HB 1659 is a bill pending before the NH Legislature that would legalize assisted suicide. Following the February 12 public hearing on the bill, votes in committee and on the House floor will happen in the following weeks. Please contact your representatives ASAP to urge them to oppose this bill. The Church teaches that suicide is always a tragedy and that a caring community should respond with hospice and palliative care to better meet the needs of those facing the end of life. **For more information about this bill and how to contact your representatives in the Legislature, visit:** www.catholicnh.org/action.

**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.

HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 16 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

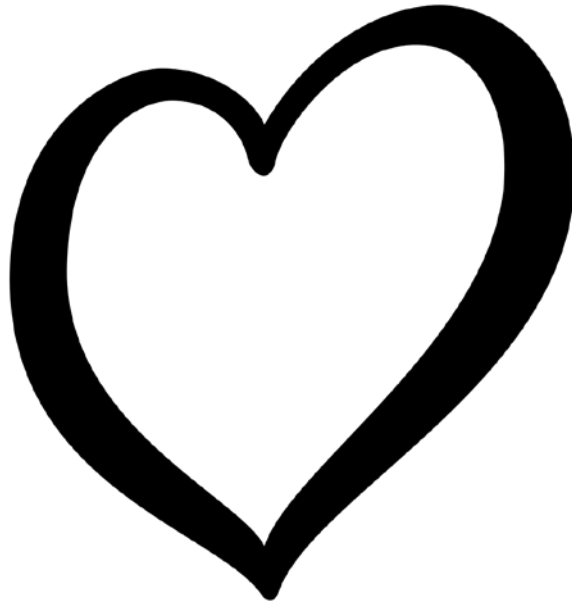
WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

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

World Marriage Day



**Almighty God,
you have so exalted
the unbreakable bond of marriage
that it has become the sacramental sign
of your Son's union
with the Church, his Spouse.
Look with favor on all couples
whom you have united in Christian Marriage,
as they ask for your blessing.
They pray that in good times and bad
they will grow in love for each other,
and that they will resolve to be of one heart
in the bond of peace.
Lord, in the struggles and challenges of life,
let your sons and daughters rejoice
that you are near to help them in their needs,
and let them know that you are there
to share their joys;
let them see that you are the source and completion
of every happiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

✠ PARISH MINISTRIES & INFORMATION ✠

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Why not join the Choir? We have lots of fun, work hard, and singing is a great way to worship! You don't have to know how to read music to join – come on down!

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

The Contemporary Choir is always looking for new members. If you would like to sing with us or you can play an instrument, we would be overjoyed to have you join us! All ages and abilities are invited.

ALTAR SERVERS

We welcome any student who has celebrated their First Eucharist to become an **Altar Server**. Training typically begins with the new server being an “observer” until they are ready to function as servers. Parents – see Fr. Albert or call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.



READERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of new **READERS** for weekend and weekday Liturgies. Readers proclaim the readings and lead the Assembly in the General Intercessions on Sundays. A good heart and clear speaking voice are the only qualifications needed – all other training and materials are provided. Any adult or high school age student is welcome to become a **READER**. Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **READERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

GREETERS AND USHERS WANTED

Our Parish community is in need of **GREETERS** and **USHERS** to assist us at the weekend liturgies. **Greeters** are principally concerned with offering a welcome to all who come through the doors of our churches, distributing the weekly Bulletin and making guests feel part of our Parish. They also help designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. The ministry of **Usher** is also concerned with hospitality; helping with the collections at Mass, helping people who need handicap access to the church in Plaistow, and helping to designate people to bring up the gifts during the offertory. Couples or families are invited to serve together! Anyone who is interested can see Father Albert. Prospective **GREETERS** and **USHERS** can also call the Parish Office for more information at 382-8324.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the parish office at 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.

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. Submit your prayer request to csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or call 382-8324, ext. 314.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

“Extraordinary ministers may distribute Holy Communion at Eucharistic celebrations only when there are no ordained ministers present or when those ordained ministers present at a liturgical celebration are truly unable to distribute Holy Communion....” (Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Minister of Priests. Extraordinary ministers are also used in order that the sick or homebound may receive communion with the frequency recommended in the revised rite for the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*.)

Extraordinary ministers are to be fully initiated Catholics (having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), be at least 16 years of age, and lead lives in harmony with the undertaking of this ministry, including participating in the sacramental life of the church. If married, a Minister must have been married validly in the Catholic Church. The Pastor, Parish staff, and the Pastoral Council assist in discerning parishioners to fulfill this ministry. For more information, see Fr. Albert.



FAMILY MARDI GRAS
Sunday, February 23
Following 10 am Liturgy

- Celebrate “Fat Tuesday” a few days early!
- Learn about the customs and ways we observe Lent!
- Prepare for the Church’s Lenten journey to Easter!

All are welcome

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

The Law of Moses contains 613 laws. Some of these laws are simple, basic, you-shall or you-shall-not commands, of which the Ten Commandments are typical. Some of these laws govern worship. A good many of the 613 laws are what-if laws that apply the Commandments to everyday life. In the Gospel, Jesus' New Law asks people to deepen their keeping of the laws and to follow his new Law of Love.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Rules give children a way to know they belong. They experience rules by being members of a family and a class that keep the same rules they do. Talk about family rules with your child. Share why the rules are important for everyone. Be sure to pray the Our Father, which was part of this week's lesson.

Promise (Grades K-1): The class learned how families keep rules. Ask your child what Jesus' Law of Love is. Your child learned how God's family keeps rules, so talk about your families rules and how they help the family.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned to recognize good moral actions. Your child also learned what the Ten Commandments are and how they help all to do what is right. Talk about how Jesus' teaching deepens the Commandments, and how the rules you have in your family help all of you make right decisions and care for one another.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your child learned that there is a similarity between the Ten Commandments and the rules every family needs to live by. The class read a story of

a middle schooler who went against his conscience to fit in with the popular crowd. Invite your child to summarize the story for the family, and affirm that it is important to listen to your conscience when making decisions. Talk about how you can apply Jesus' Law of Love to the arguments and conflicts your family might have. Take a few moments to ask one another's forgiveness for hurtful words or actions. When you finish your conversation, you may want to share a sign of peace, like you do at Sunday Mass.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week's class began with a look at the Ten Commandments. Your youngster also explored ways to manage feelings of anger and ways to seek forgiveness. Invite him or her to share the story "Anh's Anger" with the family. Talk together about Jesus' new Law of Love and how important it is for a Christian to show love for God by loving one's neighbor as well. Discuss about the importance of following moral laws and how these laws help people show love for one another.

Pray Together

Plan a special treat for the whole family. Before you share the treat together, share words of love and appreciation with one another. Then, ask God to bless your family with the gift of enduring love. Enjoy the treat together; after the treat, hold hands and thank God in a prayer for all he has given and done for your family.



**Weekend of
February 22-23**

**Help Mike Mercier and his street
Ministry in outreach to homeless
communities of greater Boston
by donating a new winter hat,
gloves, mittens or sox.**

**Winter is a difficult
time to be homeless
You can help...**

**Collection boxes will
be in the entry way of
our churches through
March 1.**

**Thank you and
God bless you!**



Reconciliation

by Paul Turner

Our Catholic church treasures the sacrament of reconciliation. Many parishes offer a communal celebration of penance, especially during Advent and Lent. But private reconciliation is usually available every week of the year.

If you'd like to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, here's what to do:

Prepare. Prayerfully recall your sins. Some will be specific actions. Some represent a more general pattern of behavior.

Go to the priest. Visit when he's in the reconciliation room at your parish or ask for an appointment. You may either kneel anonymously behind a screen or sit in a chair where you may speak face to face.

Be welcome. You and the priest may greet each other. Make the Sign of the Cross. He may urge you to have confidence in God. You may indicate the interval since your last confession or anything else that will help. Just use common sense. Either you or the priest may read from Scripture.

Confess your sins. Some penitents begin with a formula like, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." But you don't have

to. Let the priest know your sins. You may discuss the sins you confess so the priest can give you the best counsel.

Receive a penance. The priest will recommend some action after you leave to indicate to God the sincerity in your heart. Usually he suggests prayer or self-denial. If it sounds difficult, let him know.

Pray for forgiveness. The priest may invite you to say a prayer of sorrow aloud. If you remember the Act of Contrition, you may use it. But you may also speak simply from your heart.

Receive absolution. This is the best part. The priest proclaims absolution, and God forgives your sins.

Conclude. The priest may say, "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good." If so, answer, "His mercy endures forever." Or he may conclude informally.

Change! Go forth, and with God's help, begin to live a new life of freedom from the slavery of sin!

Copyright © 1997 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. John Regis Parish in Kansas City, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. His e-mail is PaulTu@aol.com.

Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

Lenten Journey is about SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP! We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form by Monday, February 17th at the office, or call the office at 382-8324.

Meetings begin next week! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets
at the first meeting.**

Groups begin meeting NEXT WEEK!

**Wednesday, February 26, after the 6:30 p.m. Mass in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.
Thursday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 8; downstairs in the Church Hall.**

FAMILY AND TEEN DOWNLOADS: www.disciplesonthejourney.org

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, February 26!

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(February 26 – April 1)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(February 27 – April 2)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23**

**GROUPS WILL MEET IN ROOM 8 IN THE
CHURCH HALL**

**(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)**



Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
February 16, 2020

St. Maximilian's Choices

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Saint Maximilian Kolbe died in 1941 taking the place of another prisoner in Auschwitz, but his martyrdom started many years before. The boy born Rajmund Kolbe in 1894 was quite a handful—so much so that at one point his mother cried out, “What will become of you?” Shaken by his mother’s grief, Rajmund went to the town church to ask our Lady what would become of him. He wrote that the Virgin Mother appeared to him holding two crowns: one white and one red. The white crown meant he

would remain pure, and the red meant he would be a martyr. Our Lady asked the child which one he would like. He chose them both. Given the religious name Maximilian as a novice, the man who offered his own life at a concentration camp so a man with a wife and children could live would be called “a martyr of charity” by the Pope who canonized him, St. John Paul II.

We are offered choices as well. Sirach says that whatever we choose will be given to us, but what Jesus offers is challenging. Jesus offers each of us a new heart, a new spirit, a new love, and a new trust. Jesus defines what it means to be his follower, and it is a challenging task. This standard is not lowered for Christians, nor is it defined by what is legal in a country or popular in a social group. In fact, we are not only asked to live this life but we are called to teach it to others.

The rewards, however, are equal to the challenge. What Christ promises to those who love and teach his gospel is a glory and reward greater than any we have ever seen, heard, or imagined. Maximilian Kolbe knew this, and he fought earnestly for the truth in Nazi Germany, even though it led to his arrest and death. +

Sunday Readings

Sirach 15:15–20

Before everyone are life and death, whichever they choose will be given them.

1 Corinthians 2:6–10

But as it is written: “What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard... what God has prepared for those who love him”

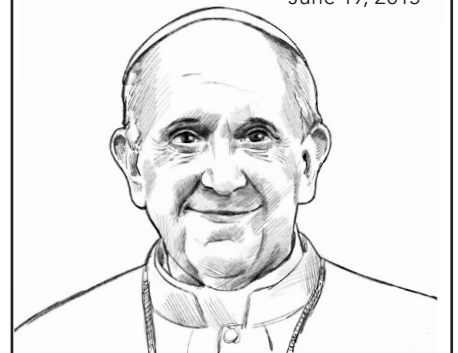
Matthew 5:17–37 or 5:20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37

[Jesus said,] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

A Word from Pope Francis

We must ensure that in the usual activities of every Christian community, in parishes, in associations and movements, there actually be at heart the personal encounter with Christ who communicates himself to us in his word, because, as St. Jerome teaches us, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”

—Address to Catholic Biblical Federation, June 19, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What choices did Jesus place before me this week?
- How have I been an example of Christ to others this week?

The Meaning of Winning and Losing for Jesus

By F. William H. Shannon

Jesus said, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it” (Luke 9:24). What is this topsy-turvy world Jesus is talking about, this world in which saving means losing and losing means saving? It sounds like telling the Yankees, “If you win a game, you lose; and if you lose a game, you win.” Say that to a baseball fan in the Bronx and see how far you get! What do Jesus’ words really mean?

Well, for starters, note that Jesus is not making the simple equation: save = lose, and lose = save. He is talking about losing one’s life for the sake of Jesus. This would have made perfectly good sense to the early Church martyrs (like Sts. Stephen, Agnes, and others), as it would for modern martyrs (Archbishop Óscar Romero, Jean Donovan, and others). All gave their lives in witness to their faith. For them, losing their mortal lives for Jesus’ sake meant achieving immortal life with him forever.

What does losing our lives for the sake of Jesus mean for us everyday Catholics who are not called upon to witness to our faith with bloodshed?

Taking on New Life

What does it mean for us to lose our lives in order to save our lives? First we

need to realize that the life we lose is not the same as the life we save. Saint Paul tells us that in Christ we become a new creation. We take on a new life in Christ.

Years ago, a low-budget movie,

Jesus of Montreal, was made in Canada. It is about the restaging of a passion play by a group of underemployed actors. In the show, an actor named Daniel takes the part of Jesus. At first he appears to be simply playing a role, but as the play progresses the role begins to turn real. He becomes increasingly

identified with Jesus in his daily life.

On one occasion he goes into a studio where a sleazy commercial that demeans women is being made. He protests against it. When the producers try to eject him, he overturns their lights in a rage and walks out. The scene is clearly reminiscent of Jesus and the moneychangers in the temple.

This may be seen as a metaphor of our stories. We put on Christ in baptism. But that is only the beginning. At first it’s as if we are play-acting: doing Christian things without the full realization of who we have become. We have to grow into Christ in all aspects of our lives—and that takes time. The Apostle Paul writes: “We should grow in every way into him who is the head [of the body], Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).



The Price of Discipleship

All this sounds fine until we read Luke 14:27: “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” Reflecting on it jolts us to the core. It tells us that to grow into Christ, to become his disciples, we have to pay a price. Discipleship may bring joy, peace, and a sense of being grounded in Christ. But it inevitably brings the cross, too. Carrying our own cross will surely be part of our lives if we truly want to follow in the footsteps of a crucified Jesus.

The Scriptures make clear that it was necessary for Jesus to suffer. And Jesus makes clear that suffering applies to his disciples as well as to himself. The invitation to be a disciple is a great but costly grace. And it is an invitation. Jesus always respects our freedom.

Each of us needs only to look into our own lives to find our crosses. We can resent or embrace them. Embracing is the mark of a true disciple. +



Lord, you reveal the mercy of God in the world. Forgive me for the times I’ve hurt others out of anger and resentment.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 17–22

Monday, Weekday:
Jas 1:1–11 / Mk 8:11–13


Tuesday, Weekday:
Jas 1:12–18 / Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday, Weekday:
Jas 1:19–27 / Mk 8:22–26

Thursday, Weekday:
Jas 2:1–9 / Mk 8:27–33

Friday, Weekday:
Jas 2:14–24, 26 / Mk 8:34–9:1

Saturday, Chair of St. Peter the Apostle:
1 Pt 5:1–4 / Mt 16:13–19

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
February 16, 2020

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