

**Sunday, April 26, 2020  
Third Sunday Of Easter**

During these anxious and challenging days, I want to thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of the ministries of our Parish. Even though you are not physically present at the celebration of the Liturgy, you and your family are in our hearts as we pray for you and with you. I also thank you for your concern for the poor and forgotten through your support of our Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be severely challenged as a Parish community in terms of finances. We do not have any cash reserves on which to fall, and salaries, supplies and utilities continue to be a part of the operations of our Parish.

I have already consulted with members of our Finance Council and have put in place various cost saving strategies to help us ride out the Corona storm. I am deeply grateful for your continuing support of the work of our Parish, even in your absence. Your ongoing support will mean that the Parish can continue the work of ministry for the present and will help us look toward a future when we are all together again.

If you would like assistance in making electronic contributions, please see the Parish Giving section in the right-hand column of this page.

May God console us, heal us and bless us in the days to come.

Father Albert, obl. SB

**RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS**

**Attention Parents**

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind. Thank you for your assistance.

**✠ 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!

**NO PUBLIC MASS ON  
APRIL 19, 2020  
MAILED AND ELECTRONIC DONATION  
AMOUNTS 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**

April 26, 2020	No Second Collection
May 3, 2020	Catholic Charities
May 10, 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/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ <b>\$40</b>	\$1,200/ <b>\$24</b>
\$30,000	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>	\$900/ <b>\$18</b>
\$25,000	\$1,250/ <b>\$25</b>	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>
\$15,000	\$750/ <b>\$15</b>	\$450/ <b>\$9</b>

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

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$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.**

### 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.

### VIGIL LIGHT

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

### FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at [jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net) or call 603-382-8324. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

### 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.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

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

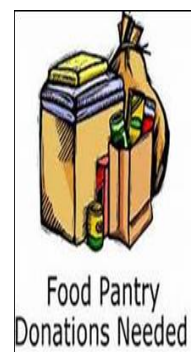
### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.**

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

### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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



### FOOD PANTRY HOURS

**Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

**Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

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

### WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, April 26  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON

Monday, April 27  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Tuesday, April 28  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Wednesday, April 29  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Thursday, April 30  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Adoration Begins Newton  
8:30 PM Adoration Ends Newton

Saturday, May 2  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

Sunday, May 3  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON IF NO PUBLIC MASS IS ALLOWED

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 25 ~ Vigil / Third Sunday of Easter  
*Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35*  
Daniel Loureiro by Janice Bettencourt  
**No Public Mass**

Sunday, April 26 ~ Third Sunday of Easter  
*Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35*  
John and Mary Madore by the Madore family  
**No Public Mass**  
Roger Couture by the Knights of Columbus  
**No Public Mass**

Monday, April 27 ~ Easter Weekday  
*Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

Tuesday, April 28 ~ Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;  
Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest  
*Acts 7:51—8:1a; Jn 6:30-35*  
Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse  
by Elaine Kelcourse  
**No Public Mass**

Wednesday, April 29 ~ Catherine of Siena, Virgin and  
Doctor of the Church  
*Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40*  
John Caiazza by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan  
**No Public Mass**

Thursday, April 30 ~ Pius V, Pope  
*Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

Friday, May 1 ~ Joseph the Worker  
*Gn 1:26—2:3; Mt 13:54-58*  
**No Mass**

Saturday, May 2 ~ Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of Church  
*Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69 (Day)*  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM Nancy Raymond by Pat Zakiewicz  
**Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)**

Sunday, May 3 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10*  
8:00 AM Phyllis Bettencourt by Janice Bettencourt  
**Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)**  
10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family  
**Plaistow (IF public Mass is allowed)**

**St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society**



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered just what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Plan to join us at our next scheduled meeting **Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM** in the Holy Angels Church Hall for some light refreshments and information on how you can become a member of this vibrant, caring group of people. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have. See you on May 20!

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 ✠



**BLESSING OF MOTHERS**

Provided that we are allowed to celebrate Mass together again by Mother's Day, a special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 10, 2019.**

**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, May 3, 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.

**ST. ANDREW DINNERS**

St. Andrew was the first of the Apostles to hear Jesus' call to follow him. We would like to invite men in our diocese who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, to an evening of prayer, conversation with the Vocations Team, and dinner. These evenings will take place for different age groups on **Fridays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** at the Joseph House (279 Cartier Street) in Manchester. Please RSVP to Becky Vinson at [vinson@rcbm.org](mailto:vinson@rcbm.org) or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

**May 1: Young Men Ages 13-18**

**May 8: Men Ages 19-60**



**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	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 ✠

**ALL ABOARD FOR FUN AT  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Rocky Railway  
Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through**

**Make your Reservations early.**

**Sign up NOW.**

**The train will depart daily from 9:00 AM to Noon**

**June 22 to June 26**

**St. Luke the Evangelist Parish**

**Call 603-382-8324 x 305 for more information.**

**CARES ACT RELATIVE TO  
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

In addition to various relief provisions in the Act, there are also sections that are intended to serve as an incentive for charitable giving. The Act allows an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 for a married couple) for charitable contributions for those who do not itemize and take the standard deduction, and increases the allowable charitable deductions for those who itemize deductions (the current limit of 50% of Adjusted Gross Income [AGI] is removed for individuals, and increased to 25% for corporations). This means that a donor can get a charitable contribution deduction for the full amount of their AGI. Charitable contributions in excess of this amount can be carried forward for five years subject to the 60% of AGI limit in those years. The higher 100% of AGI limit applies to contributions made directly to charitable organizations, not to contributions to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, or private foundations.

**SEACOAST VETERANS CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, May 9, 2020**

All Veterans are cordially invited to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Seacoast Veterans Conference on **Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.** Guest speaker is Ginger Munson. There will be resource tables, alternative therapies information, VA HealthCare enrollment (bring DD214), and a shred truck. To register, visit [www.SeacoastVeteransConference.com](http://www.SeacoastVeteransConference.com) or call Jaime Yates at 603-430-6983.

**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.

**IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT  
CORONAVIRUS AND COVID-19**

There's a lot in the news lately about coronavirus and COVID-19. Here is some information you can use to help protect yourself and the people you care about.

**What is coronavirus and COVID-19?**

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes respiratory illness – an infection of the airways and lungs. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus. It's part of the same family or coronaviruses that includes the common cold.

**What are the symptoms?**

The most common early symptoms appear between 2 and 14 days after infection. Symptoms can be mild to severe. They include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

**How does the virus spread?**

Like many other viruses, coronavirus seems to spread from person-to-person through a cough, sneeze, or kiss.

**How to protect yourself:**

Frequent hand-washing is the most effective way to protect yourself from infection. Other good health habits to practice include covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough and sneeze, avoid touching your face, and cleaning frequently touched items such as phones, keyboards, and doorknobs to help remove germs.

Keep yourself informed by going to [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

**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)

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Stay with Us

Lord of Glory, Risen One,  
you have begun to recreate our world.

Stay with us  
when we feel sorrow and need  
your consolation.

Stay with us  
when we need your wisdom and guidance,  
and when we study and reflect on your Word.  
Stay with us

when we gather at table  
to meet you and one another in fellowship  
and love.

And stay with us, Lord,  
as we go forth to tell others  
that you are with us always,  
and that you want us always to be with you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Persuading



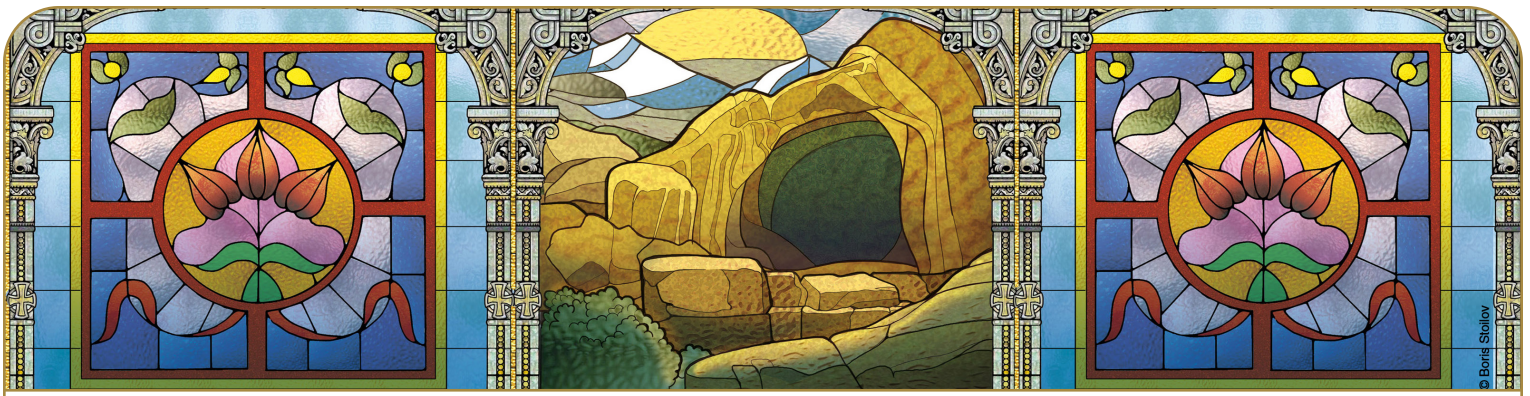
*Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 (11a); 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35.* When the Risen Christ appears to the disciples who are leaving Jerusalem, he gets them talking—about his ministry, crucifixion, and even the reports that he was alive. He then helps them to interpret these events with reference to their shared Scriptures, which we call the Old Testament. With their hope renewed, Christ then breaks bread with them, and they finally recognize him and understand that Christ is in communion with them.

In his speech in Acts, Peter uses different techniques to persuade his hearers of the truth of what he says. He appeals to what they themselves witnessed during the min-

istry of Jesus. He quotes the Scriptures and what they know about King David. He speaks of his encounter with the Risen Lord. Finally, he refers back to the unmistakable presence of God's Spirit, which is enabling Jews of every language to understand his words.

The Second Reading tells us what we already know and believe about Jesus, but in language that is rich and eloquent, thereby reinvigorating our faith. We might not be as eloquent as St. Peter, but there are other ways to persuade people of the life-giving power of the cross. By conducting ourselves "with reverence" and following the guidance of God's Spirit, we will open people's eyes to the presence of the Risen Christ.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 27

#### Signs

When the people ask Jesus how to do God's will, Jesus tells them to believe that God sent him. In Acts, we hear how Stephen so utterly believed in Jesus that he shared Christ's power to work "great wonders and signs." Such signs were meant to help people believe that God sent Jesus for the salvation of the world, but many people struggled to accept the meaning of the signs as well as Jesus' identity. Read John 6:1–15 and reflect on all that this sign means. *Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

### Tuesday, April 28

#### Always

After eating the bread that Jesus gave them, the crowd asks to have "this bread always." Jesus clarifies that he himself is their bread—and those who believe in him will have this bread always. Even during death, a death that resembled Jesus', the apostle Stephen experiences the enduring presence of Christ. In what ways have you seen that Christ is always with you? *Today's Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

### Wednesday, April 29

#### St. Catherine of Siena

Jesus declares that he will welcome everyone who seeks him, for God wills that people find life through his Son. The Samaritans find life in the Son because of Philip, who preaches, expels demons, and heals people in their midst. St. Catherine, who also wanted Christ to have all that his Father entrusted to him, passionately and persistently advocated for reforms within the Church. Her work was quite different from Philip's, but both labored in fidelity to Christ and his Father. Learn a little more about St. Catherine of Siena today. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

### Thursday, April 30

#### Drawn by God

Before Jesus, God revealed himself in events, through the prophets, and in his laws. Now God draws people through the fullest revelation of himself possible: his Son. The man in the passage from Acts first encounters God through the prophet Isaiah. When Philip, led by the Holy Spirit, explains the meaning of the text and tells him about Jesus, the man believes and is baptized. We cannot know God all by ourselves. Thank someone today who helped draw you to God. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

### Friday, May 1

#### Seeing and Believing

When Jesus continued talking about how he is the bread of life, people became more resistant to his claims. Saul rejected Jesus' claims so completely that he attacked Jesus' followers. Then Saul had an encounter with Jesus that left him as physically blind as he was spiritually blind. Saul, now St. Paul, only recovered his sight when he accepted that Jesus truly did come from heaven, sent by his Father. How have you failed to see Christ? What helped you to see him? *Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

### Saturday, May 2

#### St. Athanasius

When others turn away from Jesus, Peter remains, saying that Jesus has "the words of eternal life." Filled with faith in Christ, Peter later heals people and even raises a woman from the dead. During the fourth century, people vigorously debated whether Jesus was truly one with his Father. St. Athanasius insisted that he was, because only then would God have fully revealed himself and his saving love for the life of the world. Reflect on and pray with the words of the Nicene Creed. *Today's Readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*





April 15, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Easter Alleluia happily proclaims that Christ is Risen! He is truly risen as He said. In this most blessed Easter season, even though our lives have changed and routines and priorities have been altered so drastically, the unaltered promise of Jesus is fulfilled and remains our security and our hope. The Risen Christ is the One whose side was pierced with a lance and poured forth the Fountain of Immortality and so, our joy must not be diluted with tears of sadness today.

I've seen the refreshment of life that His Fountain of Immortality has been giving. Wounded as we are by the virus and the impact it has had even on our going to Mass, I cannot begin to tell you how edified I am by our people who have been comforted and even delighted as they admire their priests for their unyielding efforts to bring, as best they can, the elements and fruits of the Mass and Sacraments despite the challenging circumstances they, and we, all face.

I am reminded of the words of St. Maximilian Kolbe who, in the most dire of circumstances said, "Let us remember that love lives through sacrifice, and is nourished by giving." How we are all striving to live those words in our own day! The Fountain of Immortality still pours forth the grace for which the side of Christ was pierced. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. He IS Risen! Although the pews are empty at this time, the life of the parish lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving. Our priests are finding ways of giving and in the midst of sacrifice continue to nourish their people. How blessed we are!

As members of the Church in New Hampshire, you, too, must be thanked for your generous and sacrificial support of your Church. Despite being fiscally prudent, many of your pastors are facing unexpected financial hardship for their parishes due to the effects of the pandemic. Your support each week is a blessed sacrificial gift flowing from your heart! YOU have shown that the wellsprings of the graces of the Fountain of Immortality continue to flow in the Church even in, and especially in, times of greatest need. In this time of particular need, I appeal to you that, if your means allow, you continue and possibly increase your support in one or each of these suggested ways:

- 1) Encourage friends and relatives to be sure that they know they can contribute at this time.
- 2) Contributions can be made to our newly established [Together in Faith: Parish Support Fund](#), which gives immediate assistance to parishes in extreme financial hardship due to the pandemic.
- 3) If, by any chance you find prayerfully that you can increase your giving to your parish by 10%, our parish life will continue uninterruptedly throughout this critical time. You can visit [www.catholicnh.org/online-giving](http://www.catholicnh.org/online-giving) page to give online to your parish, or if you give by check, fill out a [digital commitment card](#).

Many of our parishes strive zealously to livestream Mass and Devotions, and open the churches for prayer and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Confessions. These are the channels of grace pouring from the Fountain of Immortality – Christ and his Sacraments.







TOGETHER IN FAITH  
Parish Support Fund

Throughout history, Catholics have always responded abundantly to the trials they have faced. We respond, we sacrifice and we give out of love. In this most challenging time, I ask that you prayerfully consider in what way you can offer immediate financial support to the Catholic Church here in New Hampshire.

Gratefully and faithfully yours in Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "+ Peter A. Libasci".

+Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

This Sunday's Gospel tells the classic story of the presence of the Risen Jesus in the lives of his followers. Two discouraged disciples walk home to Emmaus after Jesus' Death in Jerusalem. A stranger falls in step and helps them see that the Messiah was not to be a triumphant king, but a suffering servant. At supper they recognize the stranger as Jesus in the breaking of the bread. At Mass we listen to the Scripture and we recognize the Risen Christ in the community and in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** The story of the Risen Jesus meeting two followers on the road is full of details your child will remember. Help your child understand that every time you go to Mass you recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** This week's lesson helped your child understand how Jesus is with us today—in the Eucharist, in the priest, in the people who come together to celebrate the breaking of the bread, and in the Word of God. Share with your child how important Sunday Mass is to you. Ask your child to show and tell about the happy heart medallion he or she made in class.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child learned the importance of making loving choices. Ask your child to tell the family the story of Paul and how he changed. In your own words, tell the Gospel story of Jesus and the two disciples at Emmaus and talk about how you all recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Mass every Sunday.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** The class focused on the story of Jesus and his disciples on the road to Emmaus, and discussed how we can recognize Jesus in our midst. Allow your child to have an opportunity to tell you about his or her own Emmaus Walk, and to share what was learned about the different characters met along the journey. Ask your child to tell you about how our faith practices and traditions are similar to the disciples' in the Gospel.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** When the two disciples in the Gospel story walk with Jesus to Emmaus, they began to understand why Jesus had to suffer. They also recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Make a list of questions each of you would want to ask Jesus if you had the chance to take a long walk with him. Share the questions with one another. Talk, too, about ways you can make Mass a more important part of your life. Your family may want to go to weekday Mass during the Easter season.

## Pray Together

Each day this week, pray the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be together. These three prayers weave together many of the great mysteries of the Easter feast.



*Our patron saint is  
thinking about  
electronic giving...*

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*Parish Giving*





# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter (A)  
April 26, 2020

## Hope Rekindled

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**D**iscouragement and exhaustion are familiar to many of us. When we are young, we are full of life, vigor, hopes, and dreams. But the challenges of life can lead us down rough and narrow streets with few exits. When a fresh hope—an opportunity or a new love—appears but doesn’t pan out, we are even more discouraged than before.

The two disciples returning home were convinced Jesus was the Messiah, but it doesn’t seem to be. Jesus isn’t surprised by their dissolution. He catches up to them and takes an interest in their

story. When he asks, “What things?” they unburden their hearts, and Jesus listens and cares.

With their eyes blinded, they do not recognize their companion. Their faith is dead, their hope is dimmed, their love is cold. The mystery of the cross makes no sense without an experience of the resurrection. They simply can’t understand why it had to be this way.

Arriving in Emmaus, their newfound friend needs to go on. But they insist, as should we in our prayer, “Stay with us!” We need God’s presence to enlighten our faith, rekindle our hope, and ignite our love. Jesus accepts; there is nothing he wants more. He has promised to be with us, and we need to be with him. Jesus offers us his presence not for a moment but for an eternity.

Imagine the precise moment of the disciples realizing who Jesus is. Meditate on what this moment says to you. +

*We need God’s presence to enlighten our faith, rekindle our hope, and ignite our love.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

We have all had difficult moments in life, dark moments in which we walked in sadness, pensive, without horizons, with only a wall before us. And Jesus is always beside us to give us hope, to warm our hearts and to say: “Go ahead, I am with you. Go ahead.”

—General audience, May 24, 2017



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 2:14, 22–33

God raised [Jesus] up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

### 1 Peter 1:17–21

He was...revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory.

### Luke 24:13–35

He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Am I discouraged with God in some area of my life? Talk through these areas in prayer.
- It was necessary that the Messiah suffer. Do I accept suffering? Am I willing to die with Christ to live with him?

# Hang on to Hope When the World Is Falling Apart

By Jim and Susan Vogt



It's easy for all of us to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of many natural disasters, blatant injustices, and tragedies in our world. Are earthquakes, floods, and droughts worse than in the past, or are we more aware of them due to modern communication? Injustices tear at our hearts the most since they are under human control. Terrorism, corrupt politicians, oil spills, and pollution are mammoth problems of human making. Tragedies like death, divorce, or lingering illness can devastate us. We wonder: *How can God allow such suffering when we try so valiantly to do what's right and pray so hard?*

What's a Christian to do? Wallow in grief or guilt? Rail at God? Give up? Grieving is OK—for a time. Even getting angry at God is human. The psalms are good examples of people pouring out their grief and anger to God. (See Psalms 22, 55, 57, 88, 94, and 102 for a start.) Don't worry. God can handle our strong feelings.

There comes a time, however, when we have to pick ourselves up and carry on. The following actions have helped us when we've felt overwhelmed or powerless in the face of problems and evils in our world:

- **Cultivate gratitude:** Let go of your anger through consciously noting one thing each day for which you're grateful. When Susan starts fretting about the ills of society, she calls to mind that at least our home has electricity and running water.
- **Pray in solidarity:** Of course we pray, both personally and at Mass, for people affected by natural disasters and tragedies of all kinds. Adding our bodies to our prayers through fasting or other sacrifices can build solidarity with the victims and reinforce our prayers.
- **Take action:** Actions put feet on prayer. If you're already feeling overwhelmed and stretched, remind yourself that you don't have to eradicate poverty or war today—or alone. Can you take one action step in the direction of change? This won't solve the whole problem, but it gets you out of the starting gate.
- **Protect your sanity:** When making even one step feels like too much, you might be right. Sometimes we're truly maxed out and have to trust others and God to take care of a problem. Count what you're doing as contributing to society and call it "enough."

- **Think bigger:** Those of us with ordinary demands on our time, energy, and money have the responsibility to think bigger, to consider a second or third step. We must go beyond the human temptation to throw up our hands and say, "It's too big a problem. I can't make any difference." Consider that your strong emotion of anger or helplessness may be a call from God to act. You've been touched and moved.
- **Make a friend:** Whatever problem is touching your heart, there are probably others who have organized a group that's already working on it. Besides, having others to work with is motivating and can refine bigger ideas.

## What's Faith Got to Do with It?

Jesus spent his life showing us how to deal with adversity and how to be neighbors. And what did it get him? Crucified! If we're following Jesus, we shouldn't expect comfort and ease. Rather, we need to spend ourselves for others and learn to love better. Jim McGinnis, a modern-day prophet and cofounder of the Institute for Peace and Justice, wrote: "In the face of escalating violence, let us escalate love." +



*Risen Lord, you walk with me as my friend and companion. Help me to recognize your presence in all people.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 27–May 2

**Monday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

**Tuesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 7:51—8:1a / Jn 6:30–35

**Wednesday**, St. Catherine of Siena:  
Acts 8:1b–8 / Jn 6:35–40

**Thursday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

**Friday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

**Saturday**, St. Athanasius:  
Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69