

**Sunday, May 3, 2020  
Fourth 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

**✠ 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!

**April 19 and 26, 2020**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$10,346.74</b>
<b>Fuel</b>	<b>\$ 529.70</b>

**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**

May 3, 2020	Catholic Charities
May 10, 2020	Property Management
May 17, 2020	Fuel
May 21, 2020	Ascension of the Lord

**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.

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



**Suggested Weekly Contribution  
Based on Income**

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

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

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

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

## PAINT THE TOWN!

## 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.**

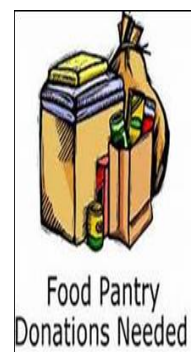
### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, May 3**  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON

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

**Tuesday, May 5**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

**Wednesday, May 6**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

**Thursday, May 7**  
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 9**  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, May 10**  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON IF NO 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.**

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, May 2 ~ Vigil / Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10*  
Nancy Raymond by Pat Zakiewicz  
**No Public Mass**

**Sunday, May 3 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10*  
Phyllis Bettencourt by Janice Bettencourt  
**No Public Mass**  
Jesselyn Driscoll by her family  
**No Public Mass**

**Monday, May 4 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

**Tuesday, May 5 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30*  
The Intentions of Edward Duhamel  
**No Public Mass**

**Wednesday, May 6 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 12:24—13:5a; Jn 12:44-50*  
Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse  
by Elaine Kelcourse  
**No Public Mass**

**Thursday, May 7 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

**Friday, May 8 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, May 9 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 (Day)*  
*Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM Florence and Edward Kelley  
by Mary and Ed Kelley  
**Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)**

**Sunday, May 10 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12*  
8:00 AM Philip Coviello by Marge and Dottie  
**Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)**  
10:00 AM People of the Parish  
**Plaistow (IF public Mass is allowed)**

### 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).

MAY 3, 2020

## ✠ 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, June 7, 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 DINNER

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 [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org) or 663-0153 if you would like to attend.

**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  
Cathy Smith  
Joyce Szapa  
Jackie Tremblay  
Thomas Kondel  
Val Barczak  
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net  
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net  
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net  
jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net  
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net  
mvbarczak@comcast.net  
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net



✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

**CONFIRMATION – FIRST EUCHARIST**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

Happy Easter from Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish. You are sorely missed and I can't wait to see you all again. It has been far too quiet!

Some important news about **CONFIRMATION – EUCHARIST** scheduled for May 10. **The date has been cancelled.**

We have received permission from the Bishop to look for a Sunday 10 am Plaistow Liturgy in the Fall, and so we will begin consulting calendars to see what is feasible. I anticipate that we should be able to determine a date within the next few weeks.

Most of you have submitted your Sponsor forms, but some have not. Make that a "to-do" to add to your never ending list if you haven't submitted Sponsor information to the Parish. I have attached a Sponsor Form as a PDF (**see link at bottom**) in case the one you received from Miss Joyce got lost in the Corona shuffle. You can drop off the form to the Parish Office (we're still open) or mail it back to the Parish.

I am sorry about the delay in your child receiving the Sacraments, but the calendar at this point does not seem to indicate that we will be allowed to be open by the May 10 Sunday. Let's hope for a quick return to "normal" – whatever that will be.

In the meantime, seek and find God's Easter peace. You are in my prayers constantly.

Father Albert, obl.SB



**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.**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH UPDATE**  
**All Programs Continue To Offer Support  
During The COVID-19 Crisis**

In this challenging and unprecedented time, Catholic Charities NH continues to serve the needs of the vulnerable across New Hampshire. While most of its physical locations are closed, all of their programs remain operational. The staff is working remotely and is accessible to serve individuals and families facing increasing hardship during this difficult period. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact 603-669-3030. You may also visit [www.cc-nh.org/programs](http://www.cc-nh.org/programs) for more information on how Catholic Charities NH continues to adapt to changing needs statewide.

**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.

**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)

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Life in Abundance

Heavenly Father,  
your Son, Jesus, is the Lamb  
who models selfless love for others.  
May we imitate his life-giving service.  
Jesus is the Good Shepherd,  
who guides and gathers your people, making  
us one.  
May we seek reconciliation and healing,

and strive to sustain the bonds of peace.  
Jesus is the gate  
through whom we enter eternal life with you.  
May we seek salvation in him alone  
and bring others to share in the life he offers  
so that all people will have life in abundance.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 3, 2020

## Heeding His Call



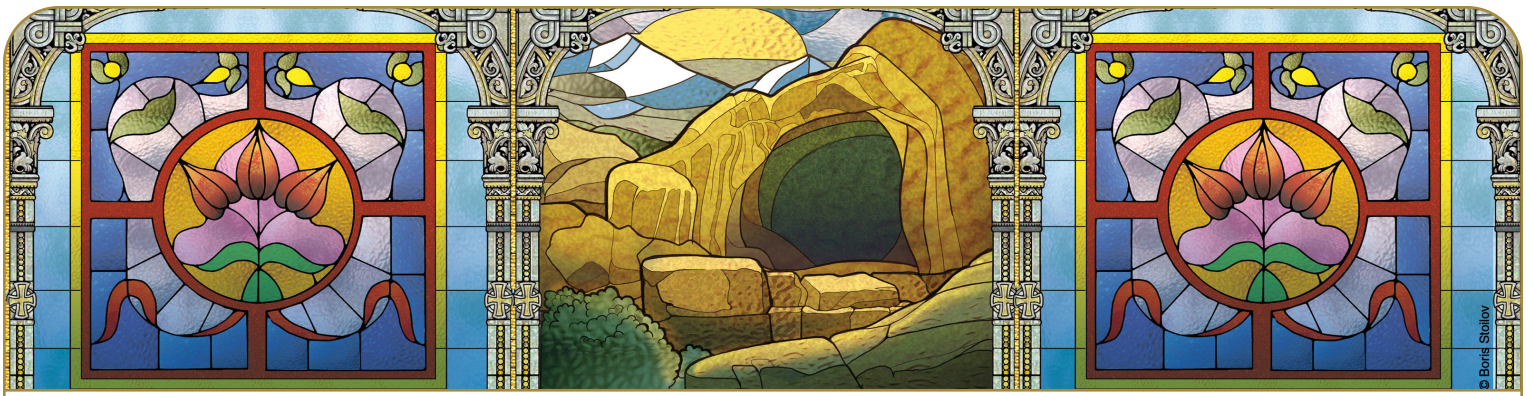
*Today's Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6 (1); 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10.* We find consolation in the Gospel passage as we identify with the sheep who recognize and follow the voice of Christ, our shepherd. Jesus praises his sheep for trusting him alone. We are further uplifted by the promise of enjoying a life of fullness with God.

Although Jesus speaks of his sheep in glowing terms, we know how easily sheep go astray. Our Second Reading reminds us that there are times we prefer to wander off. It is difficult to follow the example of Christ, the innocent Lamb who suffered for our sake. It is difficult to respond to insults with kindness and patience. It is difficult to act with justice

and integrity when we are dismissed for doing so. Sometimes it is easier to ignore God's voice and go our own way.

The reading from Acts assures us that our Good Shepherd keeps calling us, even if we stop listening. Even if we think we have wandered so far away we won't hear him, his voice will reach our ears. He calls because he wants us to have life in abundance, but also because there are others who are not yet part of his flock. As we heed our Shepherd's call, we may discover that we can shepherd others toward him. These people also need to hear his voice, to be welcomed into the fold, and to share in the gift of the Holy Spirit that brings us into eternal life with God.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 4 One Flock

The first big challenge the early Church faced was whether to admit non-Jews into the community. Since Jesus was Jewish, some people insisted that non-Jews who wished to follow Christ also had to follow Jewish laws, such as what foods they could eat. In response, Peter speaks of a vision in which God dispenses both Jews and Gentiles from such laws. The two groups can now come together to form one flock with Jesus as their shepherd. Pray for the grace to welcome all kinds of people into God's flock. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 42:2–3; 43:3–4; John 10:11–18.*

### Tuesday, May 5 Speaking to Them

The sheep who recognize the voice of their shepherd include the people of Antioch. At first, only the Jews in Antioch had the story of Christ proclaimed to them. No one talked with the Gentiles. When some people finally did, their preaching was so successful that a large number “was added to the Lord.” There are people who will welcome the Good News if we share it with them, and if we speak with compassion and sincerity. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

### Wednesday, May 6 The Spirit Speaks

In a rare moment in Acts, the Holy Spirit speaks directly to the Apostles. If we long for the Holy Spirit to speak clearly to us, we should note that the Apostles heard the Spirit while they were praying and fasting. Moreover, they had dedicated themselves to God's work, just as Jesus had. Jesus spoke only as his Father commanded him and worked signs because of his perfect obedience. Our Lenten practices helped us listen to the Spirit and follow Christ. Do you have Easter practices that are helping you heed the Spirit's call? *Today's Readings: Acts 12:24–13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; John 12:44–50.*

### Thursday, May 7 Salvation Continues

Jesus tells his disciples to imitate his life of loving service, but he also notes that not all of them will. He knows that Judas will betray him. In Acts, Paul and Barnabas travel with a fellow Christian, John, but he leaves them after a short while. It is difficult, sometimes even painful, when someone close to us turns away from us. Sometimes there is nothing we can do, but sometimes there is. Have you had a conflict with a family member or a friend that you can resolve? *Today's Readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25 and 27; John 13:16–20.*

### Friday, May 8 His Way

As Paul continues his speech in the synagogue, he reminds his listeners that people rejected Jesus. What happens to people who reject Jesus? If we expect such people to be excluded from God's reign, we might be in for a surprise. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and we are not. Jesus alone decides who enters God's Kingdom. Such final judgments are not ours to make. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's great mercy. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11ab; John 14:1–6.*

### Saturday, May 9 Light from Light

By asking Jesus to show them the Father, Philip reveals that he doesn't yet understand that by seeing Jesus, he sees the Father. Jesus is the light who reveals the eternal radiance of God. Therefore, by proclaiming Jesus to the Gentiles, people like Paul and Barnabas spread God's light across the world. They do great works, just as Jesus did. Spend time in prayer today asking Jesus what works you could do to further glorify God. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14.*



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: John 10:1-10

Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus as a Good Shepherd, who has come so that his followers might have life to the fullest. Shepherds lead, protect, and provide for their sheep. Shepherds know their sheep and the sheep know the shepherd's voice. In Jesus' time, shepherds slept at the entrance to the sheepfold like a gate that keeps the sheep in. Jesus is the gateway to the Christian community. Baptism makes us members of that community.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Children love the image of the Good Shepherd and his care for the animals. The image can help your child notice God's care in the family that surrounds them with love and provides food, shelter, and a safe and happy place to be. Discuss some things that you all care for as a family.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child played a game to discover how to care for others and who cares for him or her. Ask your child to tell the family why Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. Make a list of ways your family can show love and care for others. Play a round of The Caring Game and ask your son or daughter to show the family the picture he or she created of the Good Shepherd.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child learned some of the ways the Good Shepherd blesses us. Have your child list some of the ways. Ask your child what the Beatitudes are, and how they bring us to true happiness. Make a list of the Beatitudes from Matthew chapter 5. Talk, too, about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and decide on ways your family can share the Good News with others.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd. Talk together about the lessons of the Good Shepherd Gospel and how Jesus calls us each by name. Ask your child to retell the story "Get on the Bus." The Sisters asked members of their community what their needs were, and then formed a plan to address them. Spend some time talking about some needs in your community that could use your family's time and caring.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** In class, your youngster explored the metaphor of Jesus as the sheep gate for entry into God's family. The class read about Father Stanley Rother, a missionary and martyr, who gave his life for the people he loved. The young people also discussed the popularity of Psalm 23, in which David sees the Lord as his shepherd. Does your family experience God as your loving shepherd and do you see Jesus as your Good Shepherd? Talk about ways your family can bring the message of the Good Shepherd to others. Plan a summer project that provides help to those in need.

## Pray Together

Pray together Psalm 23, the Good Shepherd Psalm. Ask God to care for your family and keep you safe. Promise one another that you will always try to "dwell in the house of the Lord" all your days.



# 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 locketts 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.



# Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

May 3, 2020

## Our Good Shepherd's Voice

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Saint Peter, the first pope, zealously preached the word of God, challenging the Romans and the Jews to believe. Astoundingly, on various occasions their hearts were moved and they asked, "What are we to do?" The answer from the apostles was often twofold: be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. Both are necessary first steps.

The same is true today: We receive baptism and confirmation. We keep cultivating this gift of faith and life in the Holy Spirit, listening to Jesus and the

Spirit's promptings so they blossom and take over all of our life.

The Good Shepherd verses in John 10 reveal there are many messengers who promise fulfillment and happiness. Jesus warns that these others try to slip in the back door of our souls and trick us into following them. Initially their message is only slightly different than Jesus' message, but once they lead us out of his fold, we can end up in very distant fields, and it is a long, hard path back home.

How do we distinguish Jesus' voice from the others? Compare their words with the words of Jesus and his Church. If they don't align, beware. Another criterion is to see if there is an element of the cross and true peace. Jesus reminds us that the shepherd lays down his life for his sheep and leads them to pasture and rest. The cross, although not everything, is always a part of the shepherd's path. +

### Sunday Readings

#### Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter [said] to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ."

#### 1 Peter 2:20b-25

For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

#### John 10:1-10

[Jesus said,] "The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

**Compare other messenger's words with the words of Jesus and his Church.**

**If they don't align, beware.**

### A Word from Pope Francis

We should never forget: the Church is not a static reality, inert, an end in herself, but is on a continual journey through history, toward that ultimate and marvelous end that is the kingdom of heaven, of which the Church on earth is the seed and the beginning.

—General audience, November 26, 2014



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How often do I listen to the Good Shepherd over the other messages around me?
- How do I stay informed of what the pope and other shepherds of the Church are saying?

# Will My Grandbabies See Heaven?

By Gloria Hutchinson

An anguished woman sent her question to a Catholic advice columnist. Her sons live with women who aren't their wives but are the mothers of their children. These parents hadn't had the little ones baptized. "I have several friends who share this heartache," she wrote. "They have sprinkled each baby and baptized them. Can I do this?" the grandmother inquired.

Fr. Pat McCloskey, OFM, understood her intentions. Yet, he advised against baptizing her grandchildren without parental consent. Parents must be willing to raise their children as Catholics. He affirmed the Church's teaching that the unbaptized can be saved.

"Don't underestimate the power of your example," Fr. Pat added. "Children are sometimes more influenced by the faith of their grandparents (or great-grandparents) than by the apparent lack of faith of their parents."

We might smile at the prospect of a wild-eyed elder in orthopedic shoes sneaking off with an infant for a baptismal rite over the kitchen sink. However, if we also have unbaptized grandchildren, our hearts will accommodate her sorrow.

Like many older Catholics, this grandmother was probably unaware of refinements to the Church's teachings



on the salvation of the unbaptized. She was still operating with the theory of limbo, "a state which includes the souls of infants who die subject to original sin and without baptism, and who, therefore, neither merit the beatific vision, nor yet are subjected to any punishment, because they are not guilty of any personal sin" (*The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized*).

## Updated Insights on Salvation

I well remember when our granddaughter was born. Her parents weren't intent on having her baptized. As young adults, our son and his wife hadn't so much left the Church as drifted to its fringes. I was torn between a compulsion to nag them into baptizing their baby and a less willful desire to pray them fondly toward the font.

I also had been raised with the theory that unbaptized infants who died went to limbo. As a grandmother, however, I couldn't take this teaching to heart. Could God be less merciful than grandparents tempted to baptize without consent? Surely upon death these babies would return to their heavenly home.

Within a few months, our family celebrated our granddaughter's baptism. The grace of the sacrament splashed elation over my head as Kirsten Ann

sailed through "the gateway to life in the Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1213).

For parents (and grandparents) of grown children who have yet to choose baptism for their children, there is strong consolation in the findings of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. Their conclusion is that there are "serious theological and liturgical grounds for hope that unbaptized infants who die will be saved and enjoy the beatific vision" (*HSI* 102).

Although difficult, we should humbly admit that we aren't responsible for our grandchildren's salvation. Our vocation requires us to be loving, merciful, and faithful examples of the difference baptism has made in our lives. When we get the itch to become stealth baptizers, we can smile at the baby pictures on the refrigerator door and repeat three times the advice of St. John Vianney, "God commands you to pray, but he forbids you to worry." +



*Risen Lord, you are the Good Shepherd who leads me along safe paths. Help me to be a good shepherd to all people.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 4–9

**Monday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:11–18

**Tuesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

**Wednesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 12:24—13:5a / Jn 12:44–50

**Thursday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

**Friday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

**Saturday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 13:44–52 / Jn 14:7–14