

**Sunday, May 10, 2020
Fifth 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
MAY 3, 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

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

**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.

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 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. 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
Donations Needed

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, May 10
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
UNTIL 12:00 NOON

Monday, May 11
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Tuesday, May 12
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 13
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 14
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 16
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, May 17
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 9 ~ Vigil / Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
Florence and Edward Kelley
by Mary and Ed Kelley
No Public Mass

Sunday, May 10 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
Philip Coviello by Marge and Dottie
No Public Mass
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Monday, May 11 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Tuesday, May 12 ~ Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs;
Pancras, Martyr
Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
John, Sr. and Mary Duhamel
by Edward Duhamel
No Public Mass

Wednesday, May 13 ~ Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Frank Tatarka by his wife, Sonia
No Public Mass

Thursday, May 14 ~ Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Friday, May 15 ~ Isidore
Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
No Mass

Saturday, May 16 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21 (Day)
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Robert Cooper by his family
Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)

Sunday, May 17 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21
8:00 AM Kenneth Jenkins by his family
Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)
10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
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.

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers in our parish!!!!



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **Angelina Antczak**

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.



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.

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.

✠ 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
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM

The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory classes will be held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mary Menendez, CFCP, St. Gerard Majella FertilityCare Services, at 603-642-8050 or CreightonFertility@yahoo.com.

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 for more information on how Catholic Charities NH continues to adapt to changing needs statewide.

CREMATION AND THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in case of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes, and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insists that remains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

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.

PROJECT RACHEL

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopeafterabortion.org.

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.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Living Stones

Almighty God, master builder,
your Son is the foundation of our lives.
If the world seems to crumble and fall,
keep us anchored in faith, hope, and love.
Smooth and polish our hearts
until they gleam
and radiate your glory dwelling within us.
Build us up in holiness,

and fit us together so securely
that evil cannot fracture us
nor pain and death break us.
Fashion others into living stones, too,
until all people are part of your
house forever.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Dwelling

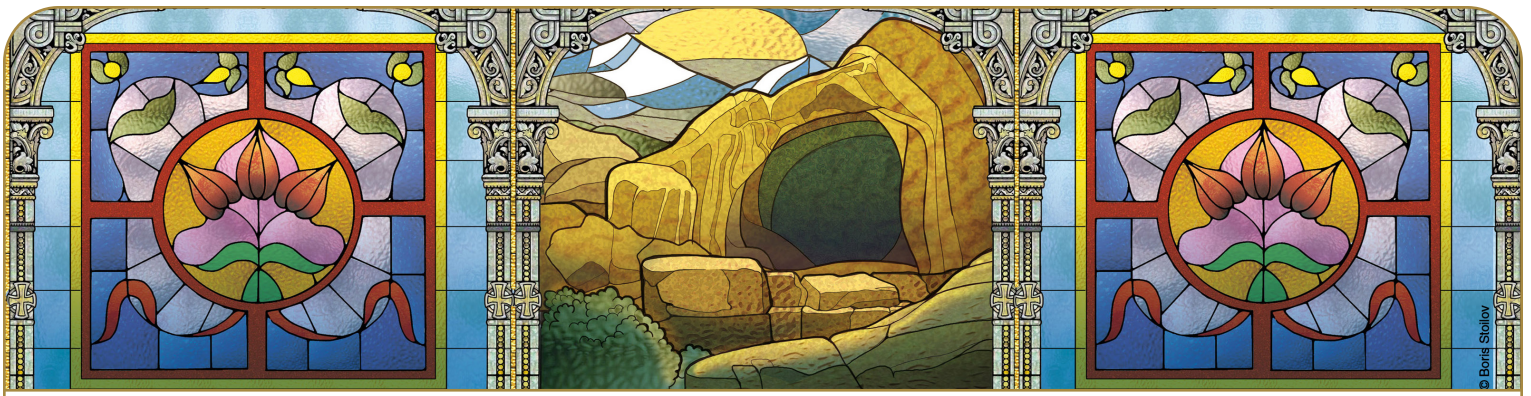


Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19 (22); 1 Peter 2:4–9; John 14:1–12. Although God was understood to dwell in the Jerusalem Temple, that stone structure was a sign that God dwelled among his people, his “royal priesthood” and “holy nation.” As Jesus explained to his disciples, he fully reveals God’s presence and is the means by which people enter that presence. As God’s Son, Jesus is God’s place of dwelling and the one through whom we will dwell with God forever.

Jesus also tells us that there is endless space in his Father’s house. Jesus, the foundation of a living and eternal temple, has room for everyone to build their lives upon him. This living, growing dwelling place is so vast that it is ulti-

mately unavoidable: those who want to go around it can’t. There is no avoiding God’s presence, no hiding from his wonderful light.

As people build themselves on Christ, there’s the danger that parts of this structure will weaken. In the reading from Acts, we hear that some members of the community were not receiving the material assistance they needed. Once the problem was pointed out, however, the Apostles acted quickly. They not only ensured that help was given, they shared their Christ-given authority with others to prevent such problems from happening again. We must do the same. By showing others that Christ dwells among us, we will help them—and us—to dwell with Christ forever.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 11

The Best of Intentions

The people who worship Paul and Barnabas recognize that something wonderful has happened, but their faith is misdirected. They need instruction on how to interpret and respond to the healing they witnessed. They need the Advocate, who will teach and guide them. This Advocate, the Holy Spirit, continues to guide the Church to this day. Ask God for the Spirit's help in discerning where and how God is acting and how you can best respond. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

Tuesday, May 12

Eternal Peace

Jesus offers a peace that no suffering or hardship can take away from us. His peace rises from God's salvation: we who believe in our Lord's triumph over sin and death no longer have anything to fear. St. Paul demonstrated confidence in this gift of peace when he resumes his mission right after nearly being killed for preaching the Gospel. Pray that whatever happens in your life, your faith in God's gift of peace may remain unassailable. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

Wednesday, May 13

Bearing Fruit

The first serious challenge to the unity of the Church was the question of whether Gentile converts had to obey the Jewish law. Since Jesus was Jewish, some people thought that those who believed in him must also become Jewish. Although the Church concluded that Christians did not also have to become Jews, we follow laws, such as the Ten Commandments that were given to the Jews. By obeying such laws we bear fruit, which Jesus, our true vine, commands us to do. What can you do to show you are bearing fruit? *Today's Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

Thursday, May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle

Jesus reminds his disciples that he chose them; they did not choose him. This remains true when the disciples choose an Apostle to replace Judas. After narrowing the list of candidates, the disciples cast lots as a way of inviting God to choose between the two men. Do we readily invite God into our decision-making? Do we pray with the Scriptures and consult people who are faithful and wise? Do we open our hearts to God for a clear look at our motivations? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm 113:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; John 15:9–17.*

Friday, May 15

Love One Another

Jesus tells us to “love one another,” but how exactly do we do that? One example is the way the Church dealt with the question of whether Gentile converts to Christianity had to become Jews. The Apostles wanted to ensure that both groups could come together for ritual meals in which they worshipped Christ. By resolving the dispute in a way that acknowledged the concerns of both parties, the Apostles brought more people into the peace and friendship of Christ. In what specific way can you fulfill Christ's commandment to love? *Today's Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10 and 12; John 15:12–17.*

Saturday, May 16

Respect

It seems hypocritical for Paul to have Timothy circumcised when he previously said that Gentiles did not need to be. What Paul understands, however, is that Timothy, whose mother is Jewish, must honor his Jewish heritage. By upholding Jewish practices, Paul and Timothy also show their fellow Jews the continuity between Judaism and faith in Christ. Try to learn something more about Judaism today. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*



The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus directs us to not let our hearts be troubled. Our faith in Jesus can keep us filled with God's peace. In this week's Gospel, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for each of us in heaven. We will get there through following Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. As Jesus tells his Apostles, whoever has seen him has seen the Father.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child concluded this week that Jesus is not just someone we follow, but also a friend. Talk with your child about how we follow Jesus. Then discuss how Jesus is our friend. Consider placing the drawing your child did in class in a prominent place. Each time you see it, repeat the message from Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child created a church from cutouts in the lesson. Take a look at it together, then talk about how your own church is set up. How are the pews lined up? What does the art look like? Is there stained glass? Describe the altar and other special areas of the church.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about Jesus' Way. He healed people. He made friends, and he taught people how to live a holy life. Ask your child what happens when we receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain how you understand the Holy Spirit's action in your life. How does your family share Jesus' Good News in the world?

Venture (Grades 4-6): Ask your child how Chief Seattle's quote describes our relationship with God and each other. In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that whoever believes in him will do his work on Earth. Discuss ways that you already do this and talk about how you might do even greater things. A discussion about things that your child worries about may be timely this week as Jesus tells his friends to have faith to calm their troubled hearts. Talk about how the Second Vatican Council opened the Church to the modern world. Is there anyone in your family who remembers the time before the Council?

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your youngster discussed the work that Christians do. Discuss how your son or daughter does that work today. Jesus says in the Gospel this week that he is going to prepare a place for each of us in heaven. Make sure your young person understands how to get there through Jesus. Ask your youngster why we are all "living stones". What ministries are members of your family involved with, and what are some that you might consider exploring? Adopt the Living Stones Prayer Service for home this week.

Pray Together

Pray that each member of the family will use his or her feet, hands, voice, head, and heart to help us build the living temple of God's house. During family prayer, make the Sign of the Cross on each other's heads and hands. Bless each other to do God's work this week and on into the rest of your lives. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and courage.

✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.



STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

The Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

Main Center

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

www.pccnortheast.org

Helpline: 866-254-4440



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or ddemers@aviconpartners.com.

RETRouvaille...A Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.





Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

May 10, 2020

Rely on the Cornerstone

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the great accomplishments of Roman construction was the arch. It enabled them to span larger distances and make bigger buildings without sacrificing strength. Just think of the Roman aqueducts, basilicas, and coliseums standing today.

The key to the Roman arch is that each stone is well cut. Additionally, the cornerstone takes all the stress and stabilizes the whole. Saint Peter uses these construction images as a metaphor for the Church. We are all living stones, built into a spiritual house founded on

the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Like the deacons in the early Church, we each have a role to play.

What is asked of a stone in a building structure? Every stone needs to be strong. It needs to be formed and shaped. Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house. A stone needs to be connected to the stones alongside it. Finally, the stone needs to accept where the master builder places it. If a stone could move itself from one place to another, there would be chaos.

Our active participation in God's plan and the Church is important. We must build on the one sure foundation and follow the plan of the master builder and those who represent him. Jesus has prepared a place for each of us in the Church and in heaven. Jesus is the way. Follow him and he will lead you to your place. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 6:1-7

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly.

1 Peter 2:4-9

Come to him, a living stone...and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house.

A Word from Pope Francis

Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.

—Homily, February 13, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have I sought out a place to serve and build up the Church in my local area?
- What spiritual means do I use to discern Jesus' plan for me?

Feeding the Hungry in a Land of Dieters

By Jim and Susan Vogt

A man holds a sign at an interstate exit: “Will work for food.” You’re moved with compassion but have just seconds to act before the traffic moves again. What might a conscientious Christian do? Do you drive him to your home and pay him to weed the garden? Probably not.

Do you hand him \$5 and wish him well? Most likely you drive by, saddened and conflicted. After all, Jesus clearly tells us to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty (Matthew 25:31–46). One family we know stores a bag of nonperishable food in the car to hand out the window—a good idea, but few of us are this prepared. What’s a Christian to do?

It’s one thing to meet a hungry person on the street and another to read about children dying of hunger in an impoverished country or suffering from malnutrition in poor areas of your community. Conscientious people are disturbed knowing that many Americans are concerned about losing weight, while others would welcome our leftovers.

Let’s say you raise vegetables, have reduced meat consumption for your health, and don’t overeat. Are you home free in the feeding-the-hungry department? Well, as many moral issues go, yes and no. It’s virtuous to use food wisely. Consider, however, the



connection between what we eat and the reality that some people in the world are hungry. For example, Colombian farmers grow coffee for export, yet their own families go hungry because of insufficient income. One can’t survive just on coffee.

Globalization shows that our planet is interconnected.

Overconsumption of resources, pollution, and economic irresponsibility in one part of the world will eventually impact all. Jesus’ command to be like the Good Samaritan rings in our ears. Our neighbor is anyone who needs us to be a neighbor, since anyone in need presents a claim on us. It can sound overwhelming and intimidating, for how could any one person—even a well-intentioned Christian—respond to the masses of humanity suffering in Africa?

What Can I Do About Hunger?

You can make a difference—both through lifestyle changes and by leveraging your influence with others.

- Eat responsibly. Don’t overeat or waste food. Reduce or eliminate meat from your diet. Eat nutritiously and organically when possible.
- Eat locally as much as you can. Locally grown food supports area farmers, and reduces transportation costs and use of preservatives.

- Eat humanely. Animals are often raised inhumanely. Find meat and eggs from cage-free animals.
- Consider fasting so others may eat. Consider fasting from a meal or dessert. Donate the money saved to a hunger cause. Fasting is a form of prayer and puts us in solidarity with those who are hungry.
- Plant a vegetable garden. You’ll get fresh vegetables and the joy of watching your labor turn into food. Consider donating half your produce to a food bank.
- Educate yourself about food and hunger issues. Books like *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* bring light to an important topic.
- Work for systemic change. Once your diet is under control, look at food systems around you to see if they need improvement.

The bottom line? Eat responsibly, share, learn, and advocate. Keep some food in your car and don’t let it go to waste—or waist. +



Risen Jesus, you heal our broken hearts and give us peace. Help me to be a source of encouragement to those troubled by pain and suffering.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 11–16

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:5–18 / Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

Thursday, St. Matthias:
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

May 10, 2020

© 2020 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.