

**Sunday, May 24, 2020  
Seventh 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 consulted early on with members of our Finance Council and have put in place various cost saving strategies to help us ride out the Corona storm. With the advice and support of the Diocese, the Parish applied for and was granted a US Government PPP loan that will support our payroll through the beginning of June. 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.

**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 10, 2020  
MAILED AND ELECTRONIC DONATION  
AMOUNTS WILL APPEAR  
IN THE MAY 31, 2020 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 17, 2020	Fuel
May 21, 2020	Ascension of the Lord
May 24, 2020	Catholic Communications

**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.**

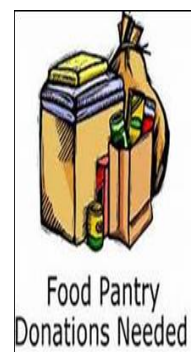
### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

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.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, May 24**  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON

**Monday, May 25**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

**Tuesday, May 26**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

**Wednesday, May 27**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM  
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

**Thursday, May 28**  
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 30**  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, May 31**  
CHURCHES IN NEWTON AND PLAISTOW  
OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER  
UNTIL 12:00 NOON IF NO PUBLIC MASS IS ALLOWED

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, May 23 ~ Vigil / Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17: 1-11a*  
Frances Fleming by Jackie Tremblay  
**No Public Mass**

**Sunday, May 24 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21*  
Tilli Massara by the Stanley family  
**No Public Mass**  
Kyle DiPerri  
**No Public Mass**

**Monday, May 25 ~ Venerable Bede, Monk**  
*Acts 19: 1-8; Jn 16: 22-33*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

**Tuesday, May 26 ~ Philip Neri, Priest**  
*Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17-1-11a*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

**Wednesday, May 27 ~ Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop**  
*Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19*  
Ronald LaPierre by Gerald & Noreen Graham  
**No Public Mass**

**Thursday, May 28 ~ Easter Weekday ~**  
*Acts 22:30-23: 6-11, Jn 17:20-26*  
People of the Parish  
**No Public Mass**

**Friday, May 29 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, May 30 ~ Easter Weekday**  
*Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; Jn 21: 20-25 (Day)*  
*Gn 11: 1-9, Ex 37: 1-14, Jl 3: 1-5, Rom 8:22-27,*  
*Jn 7: 37-39 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM Frances Fleming by Jackie Tremblay  
*Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)*

**Sunday, May 31 ~ SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**  
*Acts 2: 1-11; I Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20: 19-23*  
8:00 AM People of the Parish  
**Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)**  
10:00 AM Veronica Webster by Alfreda Ferguson  
**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, June 17 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 June 17!

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).

MAY 24, 2020

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, May 25**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 26.

Our regular office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 4:30 PM. The Office is closed on Fridays.



### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **Wallace 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](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).



### 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.**

### 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  
mvbarczak@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](mailto:CreightonFertility@yahoo.com).

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH UPDATE**

**All Programs continue to offer support during the COVID-19 pandemic**

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.

**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](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org).

**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)

**ORDINATIONS**

With praise and thanksgiving to God, the Diocese of Manchester will ordain two transitional deacons on Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral in Manchester. Please pray for **David Gagnon** and **Joseph Moynahan** as they are ordained for service as Deacons in our Diocese.

The Diocese will also ordain two Deacons for service as Priests on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral. Please pray for **Deacons Ryan Amazeen** and **Joshua Livingston** as they prepare for service as Presbyters in our Diocese. Because of the coronavirus outbreak all will be ordained in a largely empty Cathedral, with only their parents, close relatives and friends in attendance. All in the Diocese can watch a livestream from the Cathedral website, [www.stjosephcathedralnh.org](http://www.stjosephcathedralnh.org).

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## For the Glory of God

Lord of Glory,  
You entrusted the work of salvation to  
your Son,  
and he fulfilled his mission perfectly.  
He revealed your glory  
to all who believed in his words  
and who witnessed the life-giving power  
of his death and Resurrection.  
Now we pray as he did.

We raise our eyes to heaven  
and ask for your Spirit of glory.  
May we devote ourselves to prayer,  
to sharing the Gospel,  
and to offering ourselves in life-giving service,  
so that all creation will glorify your name.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 24, 2020

## The Glory of God

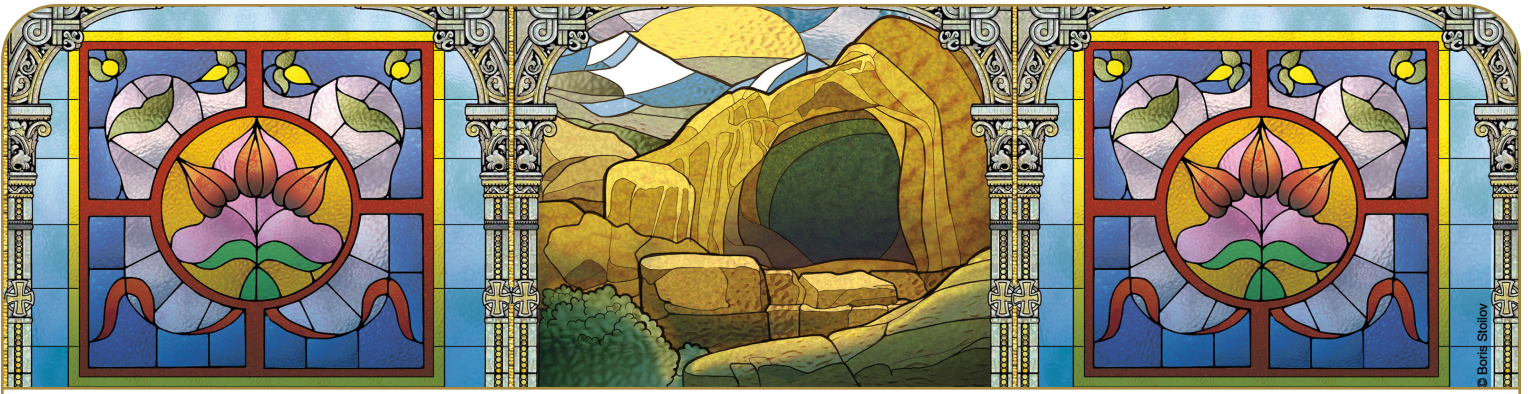


*Today's Readings: Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–8; 1 Peter 4:13–16; John 17:1–11a.* God's Chosen People did not see God directly. Instead, God made himself known in various ways, from giving his law to calling forth prophets. The Israelites used the word *glory* to refer to God's awe-inspiring greatness or enormity. God led and shaped his people so that ultimately they would manifest his glory to all the nations on earth.

As the incarnate Son of God, Jesus is the complete embodiment and the perfect manifestation of God's glory. That glory is especially visible in his death and Resurrection. The hour of Jesus' passion and death is simultaneously the

hour of his glorification, the moment in his earthly ministry when he reveals his Father's absolute love for the world. God's Son enters into death in order for people to live forever in the radiance of God's glory.

In the reading from Acts, Jesus' followers await the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to reveal God's glory to the nations. That is our call, to individually and collectively reveal God's glory, to make his loving presence known and encountered by everyone. As we live according to the values of God's kingdom, we will encounter skepticism, rejection, and even hostility. By persevering, however, we both glorify God and enter into God's glory.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 25

#### Fill Us

Although Jesus' disciples think they understand him, Jesus insists that their understanding is incomplete: during his passion, they will abandon him. Only with the gift of the Holy Spirit will they find the courage to stay faithful. By contrast, Paul encounters men who have not heard of the Holy Spirit but who are well prepared to receive this gift. We need both the Spirit and the formation of our faith community to guide us forward. Pray for the Spirit to fill you and your faith community. *Today's Readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

### Tuesday, May 26

#### Imitators

There are similarities between Paul's journey to Jerusalem and Jesus' preparations for his passion. In John's account of the Gospel, Jesus gives a long farewell discourse in which he talks with his disciples about all that is going to happen. Paul also makes a formal farewell before facing the hardships that await him. As he says goodbye, Paul urges his listeners to imitate Jesus just as he has. Hear more of Paul's heartfelt words by reading all or part of his letter to the Philippians. *Today's Readings: Acts 20:17–27; Psalm 68:10–11, 20–21; John 17:1–11a.*

### Wednesday, May 27

#### Set Apart

In the Gospel passage, the word *world* refers to all that opposes God. As Jesus continues his prayer to the Father, he speaks about how his followers are set apart from the world. He prays that God will further consecrate or sanctify them to continue his work of sharing the truth of God's love. Paul also was set apart for God's work, and he reminded others to remain steadfast in holiness. In what concrete ways can you set yourself apart from the world? *Today's Readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

### Thursday, May 28

#### That All May Be One

Religion, sadly, often divides people instead of uniting them. The Pharisees and Sadducees disagreed on whether there was any kind of afterlife. Disagreements about beliefs and practices persist among Christians today. Such division compels us to bow our heads and echo Jesus' prayer for unity. *Today's Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

### Friday, May 29

#### In the Hands of Others

In Luke's Gospel account, Jesus tells his disciples that they will be handed over to kings and governors (21:12–13). In the passage from Acts, Paul is in the hands of the local governor who consults on his case with the king. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells Peter that one day Peter will be arrested and crucified. Centuries later, Christians still come into conflict with those in authority. Pray for those who are attacked or imprisoned because of their faith. *Today's Readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

### Saturday, May 30

#### The Work Continues

As we near the end of our Easter season, we hear the conclusions to the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel according to John. Paul has arrived at Rome, in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy that his followers would be his witnesses throughout the world. Today Christian missionaries have crossed oceans to enter new regions and share the story of salvation. John's Gospel notes that Jesus said and did far more than any book could contain. The Jesus who has risen, ascended to his Father, and filled us with his Spirit continues his mission through us. May the good work we do in Jesus' name fill more volumes than could ever be written. *Today's Readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*





# Bringing Home the Word

Ascension of the Lord (A)

May 24, 2020

## Truth Revealed

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**P**inturicchio’s wall painting, *Ascension*, is found in the apartments of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and was painted around the same time as one of Columbus’ voyages to America: 1492. When the Alexander died in 1503, these rooms were shut and not opened again until 1889. How could such artistic treasures have been locked up and forgotten for 400 years?

The same thing can happen with the feast of the Ascension. We don’t always give it much thought. Its powerful beauty is locked away, collecting dust.

The great truth revealed today is that Jesus is in heaven, in bodily form, seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us all. From there he intercedes for us; from there he sends us on mission.

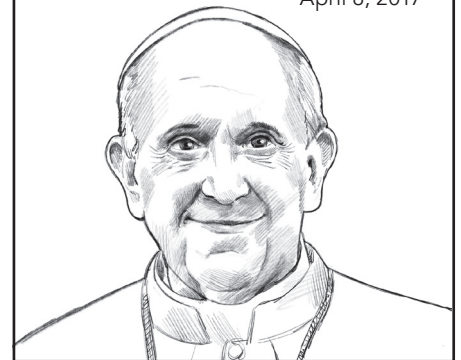
What are we to do with this truth? Treat it like a myth or an ancient story? Just stare at the sky and wonder like the apostles? No, we are to get busy building God’s kingdom. His kingdom will not happen automatically. He calls us to be his witnesses until the end of the earth. We cannot sit by and let our politics, our schools, our churches, and our arts evolve unguided by the gospel. We are called to roll up our sleeves and get involved. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). Remember the good administrator who was left some talents. His master went away only to eventually return asking for a rendering. Jesus has left only to return again. Until then, it’s time to build his kingdom. +

*We are to get busy  
building God’s  
kingdom.  
His kingdom  
will not happen  
automatically.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

The Church holds out a mission, and I would like to entrust you with this mission. It is to go back and talk to your grandparents. Today more than ever we need this bridge, this dialogue, between grandparents and grandchildren, between the young and the elderly.

—World Youth Day prayer vigil,  
April 8, 2017



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 1:1–11

As they were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

### Ephesians 1:17–23

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.

### Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do I accept the responsibility of actively building up God’s kingdom?
- How can I showcase the truth of the ascension in my life?



# Faith and Finances: Managing Debt

By Phil Lenahan

There's a link between our faith and how we handle money. Examining this link begins with considering what really matters. Money touches many aspects of life—family, work, and our faith. Are your financial goals determined by our culture, with its emphasis on *having*?



Or are they based on the principles of Scripture and the Catholic faith, which emphasize *being*?

I remember my dad sharing stories of the Great Depression. He spoke of families setting spending priorities—because if they didn't, there wouldn't be enough for basic needs. Now we're taught by our consumer culture to buy all we want, when we want, without concern for repayment. If we don't have money today...well, that's what credit cards and home-equity loans are for, right?

## The Financial Drug

Debt has become a financial drug, creating dependencies for millions of Americans. There is no doubt that the misuse of debt played a major role in recent economic crises. Some statistics:

—Seven of ten of households with credit cards don't pay the full balance every month.

—The average household carries a credit card balance of \$8,000.

—About eight of every ten undergraduates have credit cards, averaging \$2,200 in credit card debt.

Does Catholic teaching give insight into debt? People are often surprised to find that Scripture and other Church writings have much to say about finances. "The borrower is the slave of the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

## Productive, Unproductive Debt

It makes sense to borrow when debt is used prudently to buy assets that increase in value. That's *productive* debt. For debt to be used productively, there must be guards to limit excessive borrowing.

Borrowers must have a financial cushion to manage debt during crises.

Some types of debts are *unproductive*. Unproductive debt is used to purchase depreciating assets, those that decline in value. The most common example is credit card purchases that aren't paid off each month. Americans would do well to eliminate their unproductive debt and develop a more cautious attitude even when using productive debt.

## Eliminating Unproductive Debt

Straightforward steps can be taken to eliminate unproductive debt rapidly.

Once you've committed to becoming free of debt, your first step is to prepare a financial plan. Jesus says, "Which of you

wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?" (Luke 14:28–29). Your plan should include a balance sheet, debt summary, an annual budget, and strategies for savings and paying down debt.

## Accelerating Payments

Many with unproductive debt pay the minimum required balance. This strategy will keep you in debt forever. Instead, I recommend an aggressive approach that will eliminate unproductive debts in short order. This requires changing spending habits and perhaps temporarily taking a second job. But by increasing the amount of money allocated to debt repayment, you can be debt-free quickly.

Our financial priorities have ramifications for our families and faith. Becoming financially free is foremost a function of fulfilling our call as stewards of God's providence. We must grow to understand God's principles for managing money and apply them. +



*Risen Lord, you share with us the mission of God. Help me to use my gifts and talents to do God's work.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 25-30

**Monday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 19:1–8 / Jn 16:29–33


**Tuesday**, St. Philip Neri:  
Acts 20:17–27 / Jn 17:1–11a

**Wednesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 20:28–38 / Jn 17:11b–19

**Thursday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 22:30; 23:6–11 / Jn 17:20–26

**Friday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 25:13b–21 / Jn 21:15–19

**Saturday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 28:16–20, 30–31 / Jn 21:20–25

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

May 24, 2020

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