

**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**July 12, 2020**

**Fifteenth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time**

**4:00 PM  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM**

Gathering: I Sing The Mighty Power Of God  
BB 422

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 525

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 322  
Seed, Scattered And Sown BB 354

Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 442

**RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS**

**Attention Parents**

Please be sure to accompany 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.



The Sanctuary Candle in  
Mary, Mother of the Church  
will burn this week  
in loving memory of

**Mr. & Mrs. Edmond LeBlanc**  
requested by their family

**✠ 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!

**June 28, 2020**

**Offertory \$8,688.45**  
**Works of the Holy Father \$ 803.00**

**July 5, 2020**

**Offertory \$7023.75**  
**Property Management \$977.65**

**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. 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**

July 12, 2020	No Second Collection
July 19, 2020	Fuel
July 26, 2020	Parish to Parish Support Fund
August 2, 2020	Property Management
August 9, 2020	NH Missionaries Abroad & Migrant & Refugee Ministry

**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!

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.**

## THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

### THANK YOU, GEN AND SIS!

For several years, Gen Helms and Sis Blanch have faithfully volunteered their time to place inserts into the Holy Angels Church bulletins. It is time now for them to move on to other commitments. We very much appreciate all they have done to help us out! Thank you, Gen and Sis!!!! We wish you good health and happiness in the years to come!

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2019, **please call the Parish Office** at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

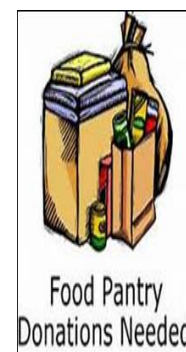
ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

### HELP WANTED

Help is now needed to place inserts into the bulletins for Holy Angels Church. This task can usually be done in an hour or so. If this is something that might interest you, please contact Father Albert at 603-382-8324.

### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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



### 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**.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/) or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

### WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...

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

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Wednesday, July 15**  
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR  
PRIVATE PRAYER ALL DAY

**Thursday, July 16**

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

**Saturday, July 18**

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow
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### AMAZON SMILE

**AmazonSmile** customers can now support Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into Settings.
3. Tap AmazonSmile and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

**AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). Be sure to choose:

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

**St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society**



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 PM of each month. Next scheduled meeting is **July 15, 2020 at 7 PM**. Information on joining this vibrant, caring group of people will be available. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions. **(Please contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or [jimmy69180@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmy69180@hotmail.com) to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.)** If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315.

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324, ext. 315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me  
for I am poor and needy.**

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, July 11 ~ Vigil / 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time**  
*Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23*

4:00 PM Millie Gattinella by Pat Zakiewicz  
**Plaistow**

**Sunday, July 12 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23*

8:00 AM James Holland by Janice Bettencourt  
**Newton**

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family  
**Plaistow**

**Monday, July 13 ~ Henry, Married Man**  
*Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34-11:1*

8:00 AM Jim Holland by the Halls  
**Newton**

**Tuesday, July 14 ~ Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**  
*Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24*

8:00 AM John, Sr. & Mary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel  
**Plaistow**

**Wednesday, July 15 ~ Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor  
of The Church**  
*Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Mt 11:25-27*

6:30 PM People of the Parish  
**Plaistow**

**Thursday, July 16 ~ Our Lady of Mount Carmel**  
*Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30*

8:00 AM Roy Lajoie by Jackie Tremblay  
**Newton**

**Friday, July 17 ~ Weekday**

*Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8*  
**No Mass**

**Saturday, July 18 ~ Camillus de Lellis, Priest**  
*Mt 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21 (Day)*

*Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM Ernie Picken by the Hammond family  
**Plaistow**

**Sunday, July 19 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43*

8:00 AM John Caiazza by Janice Bettencourt  
**Newton**

10:00 AM Roger Couture by the Knights of Columbus  
**Plaistow**

### 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).

JULY 12, 2020

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Let God amplify the love in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **September 12-13, 2020** in Medway, MA and **October 16-18, 2020** in (TBD), NH. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.

### 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

Preparation sessions for infant Baptism are ongoing. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome to call the Parish Office at 382-8324 or email Cathy Smith at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net) in order to set up a time to meet. 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.

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 Szczapa
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**

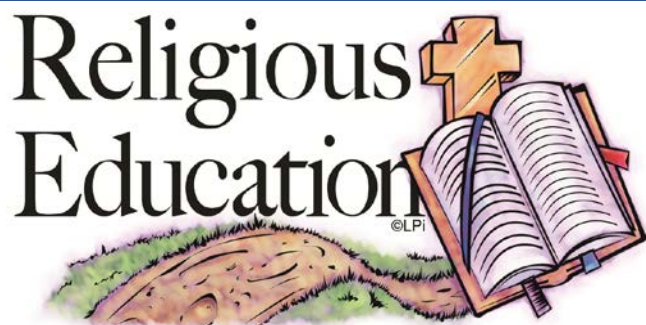
The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory 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](mailto:CreightonFertility@yahoo.com).



**FLOWER POWER**

St. Vincent de Paul was unable to hold their annual Easter Lily fundraiser, so we've replaced it with Flower Power! Who doesn't like flowers? Please support St. Vincent de Paul's Flower Power fundraiser and help those in need in our community. Our community is struggling even more due to Covid 19. St. Vincent de Paul will receive 50% of the proceeds from this fundraiser and 100% will be used to assist those struggling to make ends meet. Please click on the following link or copy and paste in your browser. Please feel free to share it with friends, family, and social media.

<http://SVDP.fpfundraising.com>



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious Education Registration for the 2020-2021 Academic Year for Grades Pre-K through 8 has begun. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 for more information.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH:**  
**SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS IN CRISIS 75 YEARS**

Whether isolated seniors, homeless and struggling veterans, families facing chronic hardship, or individuals searching for ways to cope in the "new norm" of life, Catholic Charities NH remains steadfast in our commitment to be there for those who need us most – especially in times of crisis like these. Our programs remain fully operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We prayerfully ask for your support to continue to help your neighbors facing difficulties, we encourage you to make a gift today: [cc-nh.org/everything](http://cc-nh.org/everything). You may also mail your gift to CCNH, PO Box 9510, Manchester, NH 03108-9510.

**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)



# open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*

## What is Systemic Racism?

Today, racism continues to exist in our communities and in our parishes. Racism is what makes us see the "other" with suspicion or to attribute negative characteristics to an entire group of people. This evil manifests itself in our *individual thoughts*, and also in the *workings of our society itself*. Today's continuing inequalities in education, housing, employment, wealth, and representation in leadership positions are rooted in our country's shameful history of slavery and systemic racism.



### Systemic Racism

Discrimination based on race and ethnicity takes many forms. The United States has made progress in eliminating some of the institutional, legalized racial discrimination of years past such as slavery, Jim Crow laws, "separate but equal" schools, and prohibitions on voting or owning land.

These hard-fought victories deserve to be remembered and celebrated.

Still, these advances are incomplete. Data on social and economic welfare show disparities between many persons of color and their white counterparts.

- Unemployment rates for Africans Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans are considerably higher than the national average. Growing income inequality increasingly affects minorities.
- In the United States, median wealth for white households is ten times greater than for black households, and eight times greater than for Hispanic households.
- Minority homeownership rates lag behind their white counterparts, and yet research shows that minorities face extra hurdles in getting approved for mortgages.
- African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected through every stage of the criminal justice system, despite the evidence that different racial and ethnic groups commit crimes at roughly the same rates.



## Racism's Impact in our Communities

America remains a deeply divided place in many ways. Many Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds live in neighborhoods that are homogenous. This often limits the opportunity to learn from, interact with, and befriend people who are racially and ethnically different. Yet, having experiences living near those with different experiences and backgrounds can strengthen communities and the Body of Christ.

Many people of color living in low-income areas experience low or no upward economic mobility due to limited access to quality schools, safe neighborhoods, reliable transportation, or higher-paying jobs. Laws and practices in more affluent communities, such as refusing rent assistance vouchers, can prevent low income persons from moving into these communities. As a result, dialogue and encounter with others with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and opinions can be limited or non-existent. In Evangelii Gaudium (no. 59), Pope Francis noted that exclusion and inequality create the climate for discord. Recent violence in communities across the country and the hurtful rhetoric that mark conversations about refugees and migrants indicate that there is still much work to do.

**As Christians, we are constantly called to examine our own hearts and consciences for how we might**

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*"Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality—economic and social—that we still see all around us. With renewed vigor, we call on members of the Body of Christ to join others in advocating and promoting policies at all levels that will combat racism and its effects in our civic and social institutions."*

— U.S. bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts*

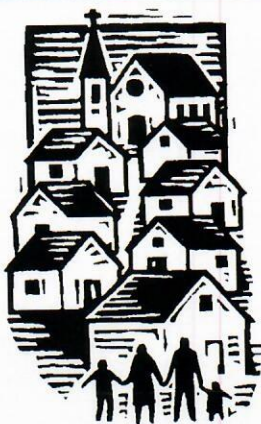
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**contribute to or break down racial divisions, intolerance, and discrimination.** The failure to act to end systemic racism hurts those who are victimized and denies all of us the opportunity to benefit from the gifts of diversity.

*This handout is excerpted from the Creating on the Margins Contest Packet. Visit [uscgb.org/youthcontest](http://uscgb.org/youthcontest) or [uscgb.org/concurso-juvenil](http://uscgb.org/concurso-juvenil) to learn more about Creating on the Margins, a contest for youth in grades 7-12 that educates youth about poverty in the U.S. and our Catholic response. The 2018-2019 theme is "A Time to Heal Racism." The contest is sponsored by the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](http://uscgb.org/racism).*







# Bringing Home the Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

July 12, 2020

## The Eye of God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Book of Romans meditates on a truth we sometimes neglect but that has inspired many artists. Creation longs to share in the freedom of God's kingdom. Sin has affected nature, so salvation will also set it free from corruption. What would a glorified planet look like? Charles Burchfield, a nature painter, tried to imagine just that.

He painted thousands of scenes from his bedroom in Salem, OH. He became obsessed with dramatizing landscapes and was known to sketch as he walked to and from school. His love and meditations didn't keep him

from entering the army, but given his gifts, he was assigned to the camouflage unit, using his skills to paint tanks and drapery. Some of his designs are still used today.

What Burchfield discovered was that a pristine nature scene was a divine image. The forms, the colors, the patterns were all created by God and guided by his providence. By painting these scenes, one was truly touching the hand of God and entering into his mind. His painting *Eye of God in the Woods* illustrates the eye of God in a sun that pierces through the trees of a snowy forest with a rolling brook.

God speaks in nature motifs. Scripture is full of them. Jesus also used nature as a model for his teachings: seeds sown in different soils, clouds predicting rain, a sparrow, a catch of fish.

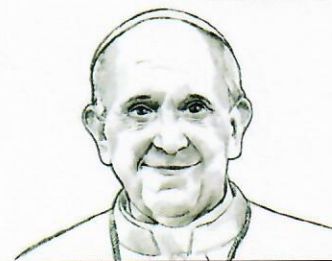
Nature is a glorious soil from which inspiration can sprout. This week, meditate and marvel at the beauty of creation and, like Jesus, take lessons from it for your spiritual life. +

***Jesus used nature  
for teaching: seeds sown  
in different soils,  
clouds predicting rain,  
a catch of fish.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

Every worker...should have the right to decent remuneration, to social security, and to a pension. Among you here are... workers in grassroots jobs who are excluded from labor rights, who are denied the possibility of unionizing, whose income is neither adequate nor stable. Today I...join my voice to yours and support you in your struggle.

—World meeting of popular movements, October 28, 2014



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- How often do I spend time outdoors enjoying nature?
- What messages from God can I find in the natural world today?

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 55:10–11

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me.

### Romans 8:18–23

Hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

### Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

[Jesus said,] "Whoever has ears ought to hear."



# Finding Meaning in Our Pain

By Richard Rohr, OFM

All religion is about transforming pain and what to do with that pain—the absurd, tragic, unjust experiences that make up our lives. The hurts, disappointments, and betrayals; the burdens of sinfulness and brokenness pile up throughout life. We must find a way to make our pain into sacred wounds. We must find a way to give meaning to our hurts and find God in that suffering. Our faith is a gift that helps us deal with life's tragedies.

Throughout history, literature has idealized people at the top: presidents and leaders who hold power and control the system. But biblical revelation turns history upside down with empathy for victims. It idealizes the bottom. It says that true power is not focused at the top. Then Jesus comes to epitomize that message by becoming poor, naked, and expelled—the one who teaches us that the way down is really the way up.

Our lesson is that we need to stop looking for meaning at the top and, instead, go to the edges and the bottom where we find those excluded and expelled. By his life and teaching, Jesus reminds us that we have to be rejected. We have to experience being on the outside before we have something to say.

This is the gift of biblical revelation. It's why we're the only religion that worships the victim, the one considered the problem by religious authorities.

## God of Surprises

When Christians call Jesus the Lord of history—this bleeding, naked, crucified man—we are turning history around! We may not realize how scandalous and silly this seems to others. But when you think about it, the crucified Jesus is an unlikely candidate for God.

But this is the very Jesus who, through his teaching and life, reminds us to be careful where we look for God. Expect to find God in unexpected places, he tells us. And so it is in all of history: It has been the excluded ones and people at the bottom who have the privileged viewpoint. Why? Because it is from that position that we meet God, that we understand the illusion and lies of a system built on power, prestige, possessions. But until all that is taken from us, we don't know that. Until then we are simply playing the game, enjoying the fruits of the system.

Recall how Jesus sends his disciples to preach from a position of vulnerability. "Go out, take nothing for your journey,"

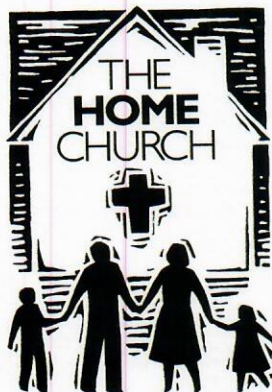
he tells them. Why? Because he knows they're going to fail and look like fools. They have to or they won't have a message to deliver.

## Hard Truths

It's an initiation of sorts: Jesus sends his disciples into situations where people are going to laugh at them and consider them nobodies. Only when you are a nobody will you understand what it means to be somebody. That is when you will find your life on new ground. We call it the reign of God.

The Bible begins with a fall for a reason. The story of Adam and Eve is a microcosm of what will happen in every life. You and I will fall. Somewhere we will experience our own absurdity, our utter brokenness. This reality isn't something to hold off; it's a necessary, tragic, and beautiful part of the journey.

The answer to our pain is the Jesus who was rejected, betrayed, and abandoned; then hanged on a cross, bleeding and naked. The answer to our pain is the risen Christ, who reminds us that through pain we have new life. +



## PRAYER

*Lord, you completed God's work on earth. Help me know and accomplish God's will.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

July 13–18

**Monday, Weekday:**

Is 1:10–17 / Mt 10:34–11:1

**Tuesday, St. Kateri Tekakwitha:**

Is 7:1–9 / Mt 11:20–24

**Wednesday, St. Bonaventure:**

Is 10:5–7, 13b–16 / Mt 11:25–27

**Thursday, Weekday:**

Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19 / Mt 11:28–30

**Friday, Weekday:**

Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8 / Mt 12:1–8

**Saturday, Weekday:**

Mi 2:1–5 / Mt 12:14–21

Bringing Home  
the Word 

July 12, 2020

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