

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

July 19, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: Gather Your People

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation: Blest Are They

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

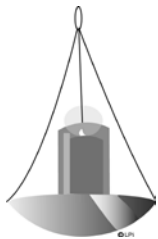
Communion: One Love Released
Unless A Grain Of Wheat

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission

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 at
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
M/M Costante Morigi
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!

July 12, 2020

Offertory	\$6466.25
Property Management	\$292.07
Fuel	58.65
Works of the Holy Father	44.00

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 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/\$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 ✂

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our planned projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton., interior painting of the Church in Newton, electrical upgrades for both Plaistow and Newton churches and remediation of the Plaistow and Newton parking lots.

The COVID shutdown put all projects on hold, so we are *s l o w l y* getting things back on track.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area! Non-perishable food or personal 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

Drive – up Service only

Wednesday 10:00 AM to Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday 10 AM to Noon

Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information

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

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

FOR OUR RECORDS

The Parish needs 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 603-382-8324 or by email at :

jtreblay@stluketheevangelist.net

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>.



Find us on:
facebook®

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to 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.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, July 22
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH PLAISTOW OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER ALL DAY

Thursday, July 23

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

Saturday, July 25

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.amazonmile.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 3rd Wednesday at 7 PM of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions. **(Please contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or 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 18 ~ Vigil / 16th Sunday in Ord. Time

Wis 12: 13, 16-19; Rom 8: 26-27; MT 13: 24-43

4:00 PM Ernie Pickens 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 K of C 6617
Plaistow

Monday, July 20 ~ Apollinaris, Bishop-Martyr

Mi 6: 1-4, 6-8; MT 12: 38-42

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, July 21 ~ Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Teacher

Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20; MT 12: 46-50

8:00 AM Roy Lajoie by Cathy Smith
Plaistow

Wednesday, July 22 ~ Mary Magdelene, Apostle

Sg 3: 1-4b; JN 20: 1-2, 11-18

6:30 PM Mark Hammond by Grace Bukowski
Plaistow

Thursday, July 23 ~ Bridget of Sweden, Nun

Jew 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13; MT 13: 10-17

8:00 AM Roy Lajoie by Jackie Tremblay
Newton

Friday, July 24 ~ Sharbel Makhluof of Lebanon, Monk

Jer 3: 14-17; MT 13: 18-23

No Mass

Saturday, July 25 ~ James, Apostle

2 Cor 4: 7-15; MT 20: 20-28 (Day)

1 Kgs3: 5, 7-12; Rom 8: 28-30; MT 13: 44-52 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Roland & Mary Guilmette by the Matson family
Plaistow

Sunday, July 26 ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs3: 5, 7-12; Rom 8: 28-30; MT 13: 44-52

8:00 AM Muriel Giguere by Grace Bukowski
Newton

10:00 AM John Caiazza by K of C 6617
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.

✠ 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.

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.

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 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.

SUMMER ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We will be gathering for 4 weeks observing a video with Bishop Barron on two *Pivotal* Players; Flannery O'Connor, who radically changed the idea of what religious fiction can be, and Fulton Sheen, who paved the path for today's media evangelists. **The schedule is Wednesdays at 4:30 PM, July 22-August 12, and repeating on Thursdays at 1:30 PM from July 23-August 13.** If you are interested in joining a group, please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or email csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

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 ~ Around The Diocese ✠

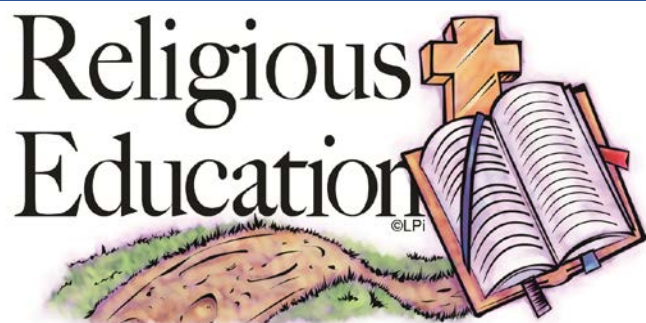
HOSPITAL VISITATION

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.



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.fundraising.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. 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. 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

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this
Summer



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open wide our hearts

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

Racism and Housing

In the November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the Catholic bishops of the United States urge all Catholics to acknowledge “the scourge of racism” that still exists in our hearts, words, actions, and institutions. Racism can be individual, when persons fail to recognize certain groups as created in the image of God and equal in dignity, or it can be systemic, where practices or policies treat certain groups of people unjustly. One area of systemic racism is unequal access to decent housing.

Decent housing is a basic human right—deserved by all due to their dignity as being created in God’s image. Without decent, safe, and affordable housing, all aspects of family life suffer, and a life of dignity is impossible. Yet an [affordable housing crisis](#) is a current reality in the U.S. and, for minorities, it has been a reality throughout the nation’s history.



After the Civil War, the great majority of freed slaves lived in the South, often in dilapidated shacks. Such housing was

“While it is true that individuals and families have thrived, significant numbers of African Americans are born into economic and social disparity. The poverty experienced by many of these communities, which has its roots in racist policies that continue to impede the ability of people to find affordable housing, meaningful work, adequate education, and social mobility.”

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

provided by white land owners to Black sharecroppers who would work for free for the housing and a small portion of the crops. The workers did not own these dwellings and could be evicted from them at any time. With the Great Migration north in the beginning of the 20th century to seek employment and better lives, African Americans were crowded into low-income housing in cities like Chicago and Detroit in areas that increasingly became segregated.

Later in the twentieth century, African Americans seeking housing were faced with both private and governmental prejudice. Private homeowners, real estate agents, and private developers (such as the founder of Levittown) could, and would, refuse to sell to Black citizens, so they were confined to segregated areas. The U.S. Federal Housing Administration policies and programs in the 1930s-1950s used strategies to deny

mortgages, home loans, and home ownership to Blacks. For example, the practice of [redlining](#)—actually drawing red lines on maps around predominately African American neighborhoods to indicate where banks could not get federal insurance for loans they made—ensured that banks denied all mortgage requests from people in these areas. African American WWII veterans were [denied access](#) to the low-rate mortgages available to white veterans under the GI Bill.

The U.S. Government also [built segregated public housing](#) (as a part of the New Deal in the 1930s), first for low-income whites, then for low-income Blacks. With the housing boom after WWII, whites could leave public housing and buy low and moderate-priced



houses in the growing suburbs with new means of financing: both the new suburbs and new forms of mortgages were closed off for African-Americans. They were often trapped in decaying older housing stock in certain urban areas or in the blocks of public housing, poorly designed and poorly maintained by the Federal government.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 required the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to take “affirmative” steps to end housing discrimination and promote integration. But, [after five decades](#), the federal housing discrimination ban has failed to end segregation and provide equal access to housing opportunities for all, particularly African Americans. Today, many Latinos also face limited opportunities for decent housing; Native Americans on reservations continue to live in substandard housing. The plight of homelessness continues to be a major social problem, [especially for minorities](#), who are a population [more vulnerable to eviction](#). The American Dream of owning decent homes to raise families in safety and dignity still [remains a distant dream for many](#) in this country.

Pray with St. John Paul II

“Lord our God, you created the human being, man and woman, in your image and likeness, and you willed the diversity of peoples within the unity of the human family. At times, however, the equality of your sons and daughters has not been acknowledged, and Christians have been guilty of attitudes of rejection and exclusion, consenting to acts of discrimination on the basis of racial and ethnic difference. Forgive us and grant us the grace to heal the wounds still present in your community on account of sin, so that we will all feel ourselves to be your sons and daughters.”
([Universal Prayer on Day of Pardon](#))



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Bringing Home the Word

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

July 19, 2020

A Show of Mercy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the most important signs of true strength is the ability to show mercy. The Roman emperors understood this and were praised when they showed clemency toward a criminal. The one who has the power to condemn also has power to forgive.

The artist Ippolito Scarsellino—in his painting *Virgin and Angels Imploring Christ Not to Punish Lust, Avarice and Pride*—depicts this mercy, as it applies to Jesus, in classic allegorical fashion. Mary and the angels are shown pleading with Jesus to hold back his wrath against lust,

avarice, and pride. Jesus is rearing back to launch arrows upon them, yet Mary begs him to withhold his judgment.

The Book of Wisdom praises God, for he is “master of might,” but governs with lenience (12:18). The fact is, he would be fully justified to reprimand every vice of his creatures, yet he chooses mercy. What a wonderful lesson for all persons in authority!

It’s enough to just look at the Gospel. The weeds are not immediately torn out or burned out of consideration of the wheat. Both are allowed to grow and develop to maturity to ensure the harvest. Permitting the good to struggle with evil allows the good to grow in perfection. It also gives the bad a chance to convert.

God gives every grace to those who love him so that we may not succumb to the challenges around us. His mercy gives the sinner every possible chance to repent and be saved. This is the heart we must have for one another and why we should never gloat about our goodness or despair of our weaknesses. While there is life, there is hope. +

*God would be fully justified
to reprimand every
vice of his creatures,
yet he chooses mercy.*

A Word from Pope Francis

There are no unemployed people in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end...the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but donated.

—Angelus, September 24, 2017



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

Your might is the source of righteousness; / your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit...comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.

Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

[Jesus said,] At harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I more readily imitate God’s judgment, justice, or mercy?
- How can I practice all three?

Spiritual or Religious? Why Not Both

By Jim and Susan Vogt

Are you religious, spiritual, both, or neither? Does it matter? Many young adults these days are distancing themselves from the Catholic Church, claiming they're spiritual but not religious. To understand this, we talked with several twenty-somethings. Here's one conversation.

Q: Jeff, what's your take on this "spiritual vs. religious" debate?

A: Many of my friends would say they're spiritual but not religious. Most of them grew up Catholic, went to church on Sundays and to Catholic school. Now that they're on their own, making time for organized religion isn't a priority. Many do volunteer work, but going to church isn't on their radar.

Q: What about you? You go to Mass with your family on Christmas, Easter, and special occasions. Do you still consider yourself Catholic?

A: Yes, I'm Catholic. I believe what Christ taught, and the essential ideals of the Church make sense. I filter some Church stuff through the lens of common sense, though. The Catholic Church often seems archaic to me—all that medieval pageantry. The sexual abuse scandal doesn't help. I buy "love your neighbor as

yourself," but I get fed up with rules like only unmarried men should be priests and restrictions about marriage and Communion. I figure those are human rules—not the essence of Catholicism.



Q: So if you agree with the heart of Catholicism, are you a practicing Catholic? Do you attend weekly Mass?

A: I attend, but not weekly. That's not where my social network gets together. I've already got a good group

of friends, and I wouldn't see any of them at Mass.

Q: Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He was giving us a way to stay close to him on a regular basis.

A: You have a point. Maybe I'm spiritual but not religious. It's just that I believe in a loving God and don't think God is going to send me to hell if I lead a good life but don't go to Mass every Sunday.

This conversation may be disconcerting to practicing Catholics. What we hold dear isn't part of the culture of many young adults—even thoughtful, idealistic ones. Their reasons might sound superficial or immature to us. Can you and I do anything that will make a difference?

■ **Challenge your own faith.** Often the path to a deeper faith comes through the

powerful experience of meeting Jesus on the margins of society. Like the Good Samaritan, we can move beyond our comfort levels and see the face of Christ in those who are ignored or hurting.

■ **Challenge the faith of young**

adults. Young adults are especially ripe for discovering the face of God through powerful spiritual and human experiences. Help your parish design opportunities for volunteering their talents to lend a hand to those in need.

■ **Use crises.** Nobody seeks a tragedy, but in time, enough naturally come our way. Recognize hardship as an unwelcome time of potential grace. It's often through crisis that God breaks into our lives.

■ **Prepare teens.** While teens are still living at home, prepare them for the day when it will be up to them to shake off the inertia of society to seek God's presence in community. They'll have to decide what's important in life. Make sure they know the Church is open to them.

■ **Recognize the importance of friends.** Parishes must be creative about connecting younger adults with networks of friends who care about each other and about gathering in Jesus' presence.

Religious or spiritual? For Catholics, this is the wrong question. We should be both. +

PRAYER

Lord, you revealed the power of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Help me plant the seeds of love, compassion, and peace in the hearts of all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 20–25

Monday, Weekday:

Mi 6:1–4, 6–8 / Mt 12:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Mt 12:46–50

Wednesday, St. Mary Magdalene:

Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Thursday, Weekday:

Jer 2:1–3, 7–8, 12–13 / Mt 13:10–17

Friday, Weekday:

Jer 3:14–17 / Mt 13:18–23

Saturday, St. James:

2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 20:20–28

Bringing Home
the Word 

July 19, 2020

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