

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

August 2, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

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

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: Table Of Plenty

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid, of whom  
should I be afraid?*

Preparation Pescador De Hombres

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion I Am The Living Bread  
In The Breaking Of The Bread

Recessional: Sing, O Sing



The Sanctuary Candle at Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Julito Intervalo** requested by Tess Moulaison

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. 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. Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

Thank you for your generosity!

July 26, 2020

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Offertory           | \$5797.98 |
| Property Management | 83.95     |
| Fuel                | 5.00      |
| Parish to Parish    | 791.00    |

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

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| August 2, 2020  | Property Management                                 |
| August 9, 2020  | NH Missionaries Abroad & Migrant & Refugee Ministry |
| August 16, 2020 | Fuel  |

Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, 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 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.



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

**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.**

**A SUMMER PROJECT FOR YOU...**

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 :

[jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@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](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.

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Wednesday, August 5**

**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH PLAISTOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ALL DAY**

4:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Parish Hall *Plaistow*

**Thursday, August 6**

8:30 AM - 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

1:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Parish Hall *Plaistow*

**Saturday, August 1**

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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, August 1 ~ Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop & Founder / Vigil / 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time**

*Jer 26: 11-16, 24; MT 14: 1-12 (Day)*

*Is 55: 1-3; Rom 8: 35, 37-39; MT 14: 13-21 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Jay Knowles by Bob & Alice Litwinovich  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, August 2 ~ Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Is 55: 1-3; Rom 8: 35, 37-39; MT 14: 13-21*

8:00 AM Angelina Antczak by the Burge Family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, August 3 ~ 18<sup>th</sup> Weekday**

*Jer 28: 1-17; MT 14: 22-36*

8:00 AM Helen Araskiewicz by her husband  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, August 4 ~ John Vianney, Priest**

*Jer 30: 1-2, 12-15, 18-22; MT 15: 1-2, 10-14*

8:00 AM Intentions of Edward Duhamel  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, August 5 ~ Dedication of Saint Mary Major**

*Jer 31: 1-7; MT 15: 21-28*

6:30 PM Roxanna Papken by Jim Edwards  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, August 6 ~ TRANSFIGURATION of the Lord**

*Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14; 2Pt 1: 16-19; MT 17: 1-9*

8:00 AM Richard Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan  
*Newton*

**Friday, August 7~ Sixtus II & Companions, Martyrs; Cajetan, Priest & Founder**

*Na: 2:1, 3, 3: 1-3, 6-7; MT 16: 24-28*

*No Mass*

**Saturday, August 8 ~ Dominic Guzman, Friar & Founder / Vigil of the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Hb 1: 12-2: 4; MT 17: 14-20 (Day)*

*1 Kngs 19: 9a, 11-13a; Rom 9: 1-5; MT 14: 22-33 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Sandy Slauter by Pat Zakiewicz  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, August 9 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*1 Kngs 19: 9a, 11-13a; Rom 9: 1-5; MT 14: 22-33*

8:00 AM George Moulaison by his wife & family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Deceased family of Charles and Mary Jesionowski by Family  
*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).

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

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 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.

**SUMMER ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

We continue with our summer Faith Formation watching 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 Wednesday at 4:30 PM, July 22-August 12, and repeating on Thursday at 1:30 PM from July 23-August 13.** All are welcome! Please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or email [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.**

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.

✧ 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 | <a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>         |
| Cathy Smith         | <a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>               |
| Joyce Szczapa       | <a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>           |
| Jackie Tremblay     | <a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>         |
| Thomas Kondel       | <a href="mailto:tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net">tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</a>             |
| Val Barczak         | <a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>                               |
| Parish Council      | <a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a> |



✠ Parish News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

# Religious Education Registration



## 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.



### 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).



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>

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called **Restore – Rekindle – Renew**. This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings September 14 to October 26 from 7-9:30 PM.

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$50 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.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)

### 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.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

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



# open wide our hearts

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

## Racism and Employment

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 lack of access to equal employment opportunities for many persons of color.



Saint John Paul II [reminded us](#) that due to every person being created in the image and likeness of God, everyone who is willing and able should have access to opportunities for fair employment. Unfortunately, this was not the case for Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and many immigrants throughout the nation’s history—and fair access to employment remains a challenge today.

For Native Americans, [colonial and later U.S. policies](#) led to the loss of land,

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*“All too often, Hispanics and African Americans ... face discrimination in hiring, housing, educational opportunities, and incarceration.”*

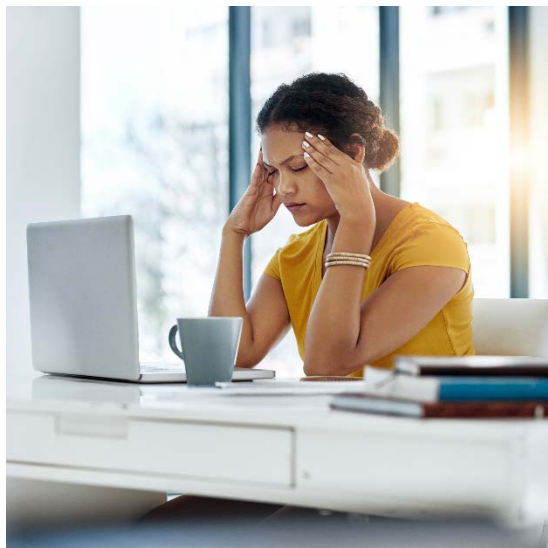
– *U.S. bishops*, *Open Wide Our Hearts*

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restrictions in self-governance, and economic devastation that left a legacy of low educational attainment and [unemployment rates](#) which remain among the highest in the country. Throughout its history, the United States has, especially during times of economic stress, [discriminated against and placed legal restrictions on newly arrived groups of immigrants](#) and blamed them for social ills. The blame, discrimination and legal restrictions were detrimental to the impacted groups and led to restricted access to employment opportunities and other means of advancement.

After the end of slavery until the First World War, [90% of African Americans lived in the South](#), the great majority toiling as sharecroppers. This entailed back-breaking labor in white landowners’ fields for a small share of the crop and often substandard housing. In addition, the imposition of [Jim Crow](#), which guaranteed segregation and disenfranchisement, [was ample impetus to leave the South for good](#). With the start of WWI in 1916, the [Great Migration](#) brought black laborers north to work in factories.

However, they faced many challenges. Many white residents in northern cities resented the new black residents, and tensions could spill over into violence and riots. Despite higher available salaries than those in the South, black migrants to the North were typically relegated to lower paying jobs. The Great Depression further eroded job possibilities. Even with post-Depression economic recovery, many labor unions that secured just wages were closed to African Americans, as were many professions. Even college-educated African Americans often found limited entry-level employment. Unemployment, under-employment, and discrimination in the workplace were the norm.



Part of the Civil Rights agenda in the 1960s was focused on jobs with dignity and job training opportunities. The U.S. Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was created in 1964 to protect against illegal discrimination in the workplace, which unfortunately has continued. In 2016 and 2017, for example, the EEOC investigated tens of thousands of racial discrimination cases. Employment disparities among college graduates of different races persist.

In 2017 the Harvard University Business School Review documented that hiring discrimination against African Americans was still a reality—and did not decline in the past 25 years. The authors note that despite a growing concern with diversity, “subtle forms of racial stereotypes” in the workplace and “unconscious bias” have shown little change: support for more affirmative action policies and stronger enforcement of antidiscrimination legislation is critical because this pattern “will not diminish on its own.” The unemployment rate among African American workers and Hispanic workers is still higher than for whites, and in 14 states and the District of Columbia, black unemployment is at least twice as high as white unemployment. Native American communities often have vastly higher unemployment than the national average. Unequal opportunity still remains a concern.

### Pray with St. John Paul II

“Lord God, our Father, you created the human being, man and women, 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” ( )





# Bringing Home the Word

*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)*  
August 2, 2020

## God's "Cookie Jar"

By Mary Katharine Deeley

A cookie jar sits on a table outside my office. Thin Mints, Oreos, and chocolate chip cookies are there for the taking—free and welcome. Sometimes I wish it wasn't there because the daily temptation is hard to resist, though I do avoid the sweets most of the time.

The cookies are part of our hospitality corner. Hot water for tea, coffee, and hot chocolate is also available. Students and associates come to take a break from studying or working and appreciate the refreshment. Over the years, many have stopped by my office to talk about school, jobs, and the meaning of life. Who knew

that such a little thing as free cookies would create such graced moments?

Today we celebrate and remember the free gifts God has given to the human community. "Come to the water," Isaiah urges us; "The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works," the psalmist cries out (Psalm 145:8). Saint Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love, and Jesus multiplies bread for thousands, making sure that all have what they need.

We only have cookies in our jar, and the looks on people's faces tell me they're much enjoyed. How much more, then, do we welcome and need what is in God's "cookie jar"—love, life, mercy, forgiveness, and himself?

We lift up one another in welcome and conversation. God lifts all of us up—teaching us, refreshing us, and showing us where we can participate in his hospitality by taking what he has given us and feeding others. +

***"The LORD is good to all, compassionate toward all your works," the psalmist cries out (Psalm 145:8).***

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 55:1-3

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

### Romans 8:35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

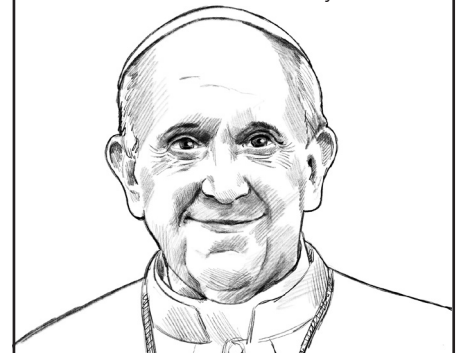
### Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

## A Word from Pope Francis

...The Church organized the eucharistic liturgy into moments which correspond to the words and the actions performed by him on the eve of his passion....In the eucharistic prayer, we give thanks to God for the whole work of redemption, and the offerings become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

General audience, February 28, 2018



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Are you grateful for the good things in your life that were free of charge?
- Are you grateful God has used you to bless others?





# Power Over Persecution

By Kathy Coffey

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

(Matthew 5:10).

If a vote was taken for the least-favorite Beatitude, this one might win. Our culture worships movie stars, sports heroes, corporate moguls—not saints. So why does Jesus proclaim that the persecuted are indeed blessed?

Jesus' style is not to make rigid rules but to hold up inspiring models. He asks us to look with new eyes upon the celebrities we may have admired and find hidden virtues in people who are quiet, unpublicized, and principled. If we shift our sights, we may find them more courageous, uplifting, and creative than those who once received our adulation.

Relatively few North Americans have suffered the oppression that is known by those in Asia, Africa, South America, and Central America. In countries like Bosnia, Rwanda, and El Salvador, genocide is common, being a catechist is dangerous, and the parents of the “disappeared” mourn their missing children.

You've had a glimmer of their experience if you've been a spokesperson for an unpopular, moral cause; the only ethical one in the department; the woman calling the “ol' boys club” (or the Church!) to equality; or belonging to

a group scorned by authorities. While being outside the norm pales beside the pain endured elsewhere, it teaches a lesson about being ostracized for the gospel.

## Bone-deep Beliefs

Those who have undergone persecution are sustained by solidarity, inner freedom, and the knowledge that it doesn't last forever (though it might feel that way). Standing with others who believe in the same cause, at least we're not alone.

The persecuted find intimacy with others that can surpass the idle conversations or superficial ties of secure relationships. Etty Hillesum, author of *An Interrupted Life*, died at Auschwitz at age twenty-nine. At the Nazi concentration camp she called herself “bread shared among the hungry.” Her journal's last words resonate with compassion: “We should act as a balm for all wounds.”

The persecuted are united: Their relationships are based on bone-deep beliefs. Members of the armed services cherish wartime buddies. They put their lives on the line together. So our deepest affinities may be to those with whom we share unpopular beliefs.

## Resting in Hope

From the writing of people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gandhi, or Óscar Romero emerges a sense of inner freedom. As the Gospel says, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna (hell)” (Matthew 10:28). Like the early Christians, Archbishop Romero predicted he would outlive his own martyrdom: “If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people.”

The persecuted teach us how much in our lives is superficial, how little is essential. Those deprived of material things still find joy and fulfillment.

Finally, Jesus directs us to place our sufferings in an eternal context. A problem that looms large does not last forever. The persecuted teach us to carry burdens lightly and wear our chains loosely. They take God's mission on earth seriously but can laugh at themselves.

We can approach persecutions as Jesus did. When we feel diminished by criticism, rejected by the “in” crowd, or demonized by those who disagree with us, we can rest in Jesus' assurance that we aren't alone, the pain doesn't last forever, and the kingdom is ours. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, your love and compassion are always with us in times of trouble. Help me walk in solidarity with those who suffer and show them your love and compassion.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 3–8

**Monday, Weekday:**

Jer 28:1–17 / Mt 14:22–36

**Tuesday, St. John Vianney:**

Jer 30:1–2, 12–15, 18–22 /

Mt 14:22–36 or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

Jer 31:1–7 / Mt 15:21–28

**Thursday, Transfiguration of the Lord:**

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 / 2 Pt 1:16–19 / Mt 17:1–9

**Friday, Weekday:**

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7 / Mt 16:24–28

**Saturday, St. Dominic:**

Hb 1:12–2:4 / Mt 17:14–20

Bringing Home  
the Word 

August 2, 2020

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