

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

August 16, 2020

Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

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

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: Sing A New Song

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

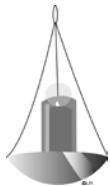
*The Lord is my light and my salvation,
of whom should I be afraid, of whom
should I be afraid?*

Preparation Hosea

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Song of the Body of Christ
Our Blessing Cup

Recessional: O God, Almighty Father



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

August 9, 2020

Offertory	\$6457.85
Property Management	120.00
Parish to Parish	139.30
Fuel	80.65

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses *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 16 Fuel

The annual **Missionary Cooperative Collection**, scheduled for August 23 and funded by Parishes in our Diocese for missionary dioceses or religious orders in the US and throughout the world has been cancelled because of the pandemic. We will not take a second collection on Aug. 23.

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.



It is August and Christmas Fair plans are usually well in place... except for the current state of things...

Saint Luke's will sponsor a VIRTUAL Christmas Fair with on-line auction, on-line raffles, and virtual opportunities for all to help our Parish. We're working on the on-line cookie angel thing...

See the insert in today's Bulletin for more information!



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.



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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✘ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✘

Tuesday, August 18

6:00 PM Parish Finance Council *Plaistow*

Wednesday, August 19

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

7:00 PM Saint Vincent de Paul Society *Plaistow*

Thursday, August 20

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

Saturday, August 22

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. 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, August 15 ~ ASSUMPTION of the BVM / Vigil of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rv 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10a; 1 Cor 15: 20-27; Lk 1: 39-56 (Day)
Is 56: 1, 6-7; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15: 21-28 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Helene Downey by her daughter
Plaistow

Sunday, August 16 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56: 1, 6-7; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15: 21-28

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, August 17 ~ 20th Ordinary

Ez 24: 15-24; Mt 19: 16-22

8:00 AM For Michael & his recovery
Newton

Tuesday, August 18 ~ 20th Ordinary

Ez 28: 1-10; 19: 23-30

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 19 ~ Jean Eudes, Priest & Founder

Ez: 34: 1-11; Mt 20: 1-16

6:30 PM Mark Hammond by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Thursday, August 20~ Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

Ez 36: 23-28; Mt 22: 1-14

8:00 AM Sick of the Parish
Newton

Friday, August 21~ Pius X, Pope

Ez 37: 1-14; Mt 22: 34-40

No Mass

Saturday, August 22 ~ Queenship of the BVM / Vigil of the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 43:1-7ab; Mt 23: 1-12 (Day)

Is 22: 19-23; Rom 11: 33-36; Mt 16: 13-20 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, August 23 ~ Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 22: 19-23; Rom 11: 33-36; Mt 16: 13-20

8:00 AM Louis Inzero
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 ✧

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.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on
Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray
before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

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.

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 603-382-8324 or by email at 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>.

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.

✧ 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	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

Religious Education Registration

Religious Education Registration for the 2020-2021 Academic Year for Grades Pre-K through 8 has begun. The entire Fall semester of Religious Education will be done ON-LINE using materials provided by the Parish and access from our publisher, Pflaum. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all students. Print materials will be distributed from the Parish Hall, and on-line access will be provided to registered families.

If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Religious Education program, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 for more information. We offer Religious Education for children in school grades K – 8.

FIRST EUCHARIST – CONFIRMATION

Our Bishop has given us permission to celebrate Eucharist and Confirmation with the Candidates deferred from the spring shut down. We will celebrate with our Candidates in small groups at the 10 am Liturgy on Sundays through October and the first two weeks of November. A Parent meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13 at NOON in the Plaistow church** for all who are prepared to celebrate the Sacraments. Dates will be available for sign up at that meeting. Contact Cathy Smith or Father Albert in the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 with any questions. A letter has been sent home to all Candidates with more information.



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>

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN NH ARE OPENING!

The Diocese of Manchester has announced a new incentive program for grade 1-8 students who transfer to Diocesan Catholic Schools from a public or charter school. The "TIP" program will provide a \$1,000 tuition credit for your first year, \$500 in the second year. Students entering a Catholic high school can receive \$2000.00 tuition credit.

St. Joseph Regional School in Salem is offering a Transfer Incentive Program (TIP) for students in grades 1-8 who transfer from a public or charter school until 8/31/20. Additional ways to save on tuition are also available. For more information email info@sjrcs.com or visit online www.stjosepheagles.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. 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**

VOTE 2020

The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do." -- *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 13*. Check out our new Voting page for information on how to register and how to vote. Visit <https://www.catholicnh.org/community/public-issues/voting>



open wide our hearts

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

Racism and the Criminal Justice System

In the November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urge all Catholics to acknowledge “the scourge of racism” that still exists in our hearts, words, actions, and institutions. Racism is rooted in a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of people of a different race. Racism does not reflect the inner life of God—the Triune unity of three-in-one—that we are called to imitate. Racism manifests itself in sinful individual actions, which contribute to structures of sin that perpetuate division and inequality, as has been seen throughout our nation’s history and into the present. One such structure in need of conversion is the criminal justice system.



In *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and the Criminal Justice system*, the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, “Racism and discrimination that continue to haunt our

“We read the headlines that report the killing of unarmed African Americans by law enforcement officials. In our prisons, the numbers of inmates of color, notably those who are brown and black, is grossly disproportionate. Despite the great blessings of liberty that this country offers, we must admit the plain truth that for many of our fellow citizens, who have done nothing wrong, interactions with the police are often fraught with fear and even danger.”

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

nation are reflected in similar ways in the criminal justice system.” For decades, the bishops have recognized the limited utility of mandatory minimum sentencing for drug and non-violent offenses. Recognizing that the default response to social ills such as mental illness, drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment and illiteracy is too often incarceration, the bishops have advocated for sentencing reform and increased use of rehabilitative and restorative justice programs that focus on education, literacy, job-placement, and substance-abuse treatment.

Over the past four decades, there has been a 500% increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S., [which now totals roughly 2.2 million](#). Contributing factors to this increase include mandatory minimum

sentences, harsher sentences for non-violent drug offenses, “three-strikes” laws, and changes in policing. The United States now has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. With 5% of the world’s population, the United States houses roughly 25% of the world’s prisoners.

Currently, African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos make up 56% of prisoners but are only 28% of the U.S. population. Although “color blind” on the surface, racial disparities appear in every stage of the criminal justice system, which has built the resulting prison and jail population over decades.

- Whites and African Americans engage in drug use at similar rates, but African Americans are much more likely to be arrested for it.
- Although the gap among incarceration rates of different races

has narrowed somewhat in recent years, African Americans are still incarcerated at more than five times the rate of whites.

- African Americans are more likely to experience traffic stops, searches, and juvenile arrests, and receive harsher sentences and greater length of sentencing.
- Recent headlines have also raised questions about treatment by law enforcement of persons of color, with studies pointing to racial disparities in use of non-lethal force against African Americans and Hispanics.

We must continue to work and pray against the evils of racism, particularly as it may manifest in our criminal justice system and in the way that laws are enforced.

For More Information

- *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and the Criminal Justice*

Pray with St. John Paul II

“Lord God, our Father, 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 the Day of Pardon)



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Prayer from Pope John Paul II, Universal Prayer, March 12, 2000, copyright © 2000, Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV), Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



Bringing Home the Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

August 16, 2020

A Chosen People, a Common Ancestry

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Today's readings have a common theme: how Jesus' words to his Jewish brothers and sisters influence our faith.

The Catholic Church's relationship with our Jewish brothers and sisters has been strengthened dramatically over the last years. This is thanks in large part to Vatican II's Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*), particularly Judaism.

Our deep connection with Judaism is rooted in the fact that God offered the Old Covenant to these Chosen People.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Them I will bring to my holy mountain / and make them joyful in my house of prayer.

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Matthew 15:21-28

[Jesus] said..., "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

We are also indebted to them because their history and culture formed the lives of the people of God and the Holy Family, from which the early Church sprung.

Christianity's firm belief that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah is the reason our Church is like a shoot sprung from the root of Jesse. This difference was something Paul's Letter to the Romans dealt with directly—the need for all, both Jews and Gentiles, to accept Jesus.

The key element to this acceptance is the faith shown in the Gospels. Jesus reaches out to his fellow members of the house of Judah yet also recognizes that a Canaanite (Gentile) woman has faith that leads to salvation. This has key implications for both insiders and outsiders: One can no longer claim salvation by a bloodline or nationality but only by one's acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God and active participation in his body, the Church. Jesus broadens the welcome and opens God's house to all people. +

**St. Paul states the need for
all—Jews and Gentiles—
to accept Jesus.**

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, he reveals himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

Angelus, February 8, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How can you become more united with your ancestors in faith?
- How can you strengthen ties with your Christ family?

The Seventh Commandment and Hidden Forms of Theft

By Kathy Coffey

"You shall not steal."
Exodus 20:15

We might think, "Whew! Got off easy on that one!" We law-abiding sorts don't pilfer office supplies, skim from the collection plate, shoplift, or rob banks. At last, this is one commandment we're handily observing, right?

Right—if we stick to the letter of the law. But the commandments are demanding, calling us beyond superficial observance. There are more forms of stealing than we might recognize. Let's look first at homegrown forms, then at the larger picture of social justice.

For example, we rob our families of hours together when we work overtime at jobs to buy more than necessities.

The Church has long taught that people created by God are too precious to be merely a means of profit. Our birthright gifts as God's children include dignity, security, the divine, transcendent love. So why do we hoard lesser things?

We steal a person's enthusiasm with negative comments. We quash plans that sound naïve to us, quell a child's creativity, stifle the initiative of a new employee. Unfounded fears can block imaginative solutions and worse—the inspiration of the Spirit.



Two forms of theft steal from the present: anxiety over the future or mulling about the past. Both rob the current moment of grace and potential.

It's Not Just About Us

The items in closets that don't fit or aren't worn—these too are stolen from those who could be using them, who might

actually be thrilled to have them. As St. Basil reminds us: "The coat in your closet belongs to the naked. The shoes rotting in your basement belong to the barefoot."

Our property and talents belong to us but were given by God for the benefit of others. Here again, our model is Christ, who "became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

A look through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reveals social dimensions of this commandment, condemning: the payment of unjust wages, bribes to legislators, breaking a contract, and "work poorly done." Plus, discrimination against minorities, women, and immigrants—denying them job access—violates the Seventh Commandment.

How Las Vegas must tremble to hear the words, "The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement" (CCC 2413). We may cringe at the busloads of people pumping their savings into slot machines.

So, too, people who lavish more money and attention on pets than some children receive aren't exercising proper stewardship: "One can love animals; one should not direct to them the affection due only to persons" (CCC 2418).

On a global scale, the arms race plunders the planet's resources, substituting weapons for basic needs. President Dwight D. Eisenhower prophetically warned in his 1961 farewell address that the military-industrial complex could sap our country's riches.

Paying Back

To conclude on a bright note, many people are making efforts at reparation. Corporate pollution may steal clean water and air, but it's heartening to think of the youth group at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Richmond, VA. The kids sponsored a fast from every liquid but tap water and donated the money they would've spent to a project providing clean water in Nicaragua.

As Helen Keller said, "The world is full of suffering. It is full also of the overcoming of it." Those who repay the thefts occurring in homes and society honor the Seventh Commandment brilliantly. +

PRAYER

Lord, you offered the healing love and compassion of God to the sick and poor. Help me be an instrument of God's love and compassion to all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 17–22

Monday, Weekday:
Ez 24:15–24 / Mt 19:16–22
Tuesday, Weekday:
Ez 28:1–10 / Mt 19:23–30
Wednesday, Weekday:
Ez 34:1–11 / Mt 20:1–16

Thursday, St. Bernard:
Ez 36:23–28 / Mt 22:1–14
Friday, St. Pius X:
Ez 37:1–14 / Mt 22:34–40

Saturday, Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary:
Ez 43:1–7ab / Mt 23:1–12

Bringing Home
the **Word**

August 16, 2020

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