

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

August 23, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday In
Ordinary Time

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

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table

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 Ubi Caritas

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion I Received The Living God
One Bread, One Body

Recessional: Take The Word Of God



The Sanctuary Candle at
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
Angelina Antczak
requested by the Burge Family

**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!**



✠ 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 16, 2020

Offertory	\$6143.46
Property Management	116.70
Parish to Parish	10.00
Fuel	1227.00
NH Missionaries	100.00
Assumption	503.00

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

September 6 Property Management

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 up a second collection on Aug. 23.

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.



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

Saint Luke 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...

Stay tuned to the Parish Bulletin 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.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, August 26
**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH PLAISTOW OPEN FOR
 PRIVATE PRAYER ALL DAY**

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.amazon smile.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 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

Monday, August 24 ~ Bartholomew, Apostle

Rv 21: 9b-14; Jn 1: 45-51

8:00 AM Albert & Barbara Tremblay
Newton

Tuesday, August 25 ~ Louis of France, Married Man

2 Thes 2: 1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23: 23-26

8:00 AM Agatha Faggiano by M/M Don Hubbard
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 26 ~ 21st Weekday

1 Thes 3: 6-10, 16-18; Mt 23: 27-32

6:30 PM Mark Hammond by Laura Branting
Plaistow

Thursday, August 27 ~ Monica of Hippo, Holy Woman

1 Cor 1: 1-9; Mt 24: 42-51

8:00 AM Intentions of Mary Walsh by Grace Bukowski
Newton

Friday, August 28 ~ Augustine of Hippo, Bishop & Teacher

1 Cor 1: 17-25; Mt 25: 1-13

No Mass

Saturday, August 29 ~ Martyrdom of John the Baptist / Vigil of the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor 1: 26-31; Mk 6: 17-29 (Day)

Jer 20: 7-9; Rom 12: 1-2; Mt 16: 21-17 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Donald Culbert, Jr. by Jane Culbert & Family
Plaistow

Sunday, August 30 ~ Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20: 7-9; Rom 12: 1-2; Mt 16: 21-17

8:00 AM Richard Lachance by the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM Richard Faucher by his 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.

✠ 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 and speak to Cathy Smith or Father Albert for more information. The Parish offers 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 throughout October and into 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. **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, visit:** 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>



Oh, What A Year It's BEEN!!
And to add to the "excitement" of 2020,
we're having a VIRTUAL Christmas Fair !!

"HOW" you ask?

To be brief, there's a website called BiddingOwl from which we will be able to host parts of our Christmas Fair virtually. Through it, we will offer items to be auctioned, as well as items to be raffled.

Once our virtual fair is created and goes "LIVE", you will be able to view it from your smart phone or computer. To bid on an auction item or purchase raffle tickets, you will simply create an account and then place bids on various auction items or purchase raffle tickets for our Raffles and/or Theme Baskets.

Additionally, using BiddingOwl will allow each of us to share our virtual Christmas Fair with our extended friends and family by emailing them the link to our virtual fair!

In a future bulletin, we will share both the link to St. Luke's Virtual Christmas Fair as well as instructions on how to create an account, place bids, & purchase raffle tickets.

And speaking of raffle tickets...

In a couple of weeks, at the back of both churches, be on the look out for Posters of our biggest Raffles: **The Ca\$h Raffle**, **The Wine Raffle**, **The Quilt Raffle**, and a brand new raffle for a meticulously hand-made, beautiful, one-of-a-kind **Doll House Raffle**!

BUT before any of this can happen, we need donations for Auction and Raffle items. Please see the other side for more details!!

Questions? Send a message to Julie Lamere at stlukenhfair@gmail.com

Thank you very much!



St. Luke the Evangelist Parish VIRTUAL Christmas Craft Fair

Can you donate...

New items and/or Like-New items ?

Antiques, Collectibles, or Gift Certificates ?

Lottery Tickets ? Lots & Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets ?

Original Artwork, New Toys, Fun Gadgets, or Power Tools ?

Newly Knitted and/or Crocheted Coordinated Sets or Afghans ?

Items for men, Items for women, Items for boys, or Items for girls ?

Wine: White wine, Red wine, Pink wine, Sparkling wine, wine, wine, wine !!!

Jewelry: new/like-new Rings, Watches, Chains, Necklaces, Earrings, or Bracelets ??

Themed Baskets are great online Raffle items.

Here are some ideas:

"As Seen On TV", Baby Bundle, Baking, Birthday-In-A-Box, Breakfast-In-A-Basket, Book Club, Caffeine Fix, Christmas, Chocolate Madness, Cooking, COVID Safety!, Crazy for Cats, Family Fun, Fishing, Fabulous Foodie, Football Fans, Game Night, Gardening, Golf, The Grill Master, Ice Cream Extravaganza, Kid's Crafts, Kitchen Essentials, Ladies Night Out, Loco for Legos, Man-scaping, Mexican Fiesta, Movie Night, New Years' Celebration, Outdoorsy, Pamper-the-Chef, Pasta Night, Picnic Basket, Puppy Lovers, Quilt Quarters, Relaxation Time, Road Trip, Scrapbooking, Spa Day, Sports Lover, Super Scientist, Survival Supplies 2020, Thanksgiving, Vehicle Safety Kit, Weekend Getaway, Winter Fun, Yoga Time, Zen Master

KEY DATES

We will begin accepting donations on Saturday, September 5.

Donations will be accepted down in the Church Hall every Saturday in September from 3:00PM-5:00PM and every Sunday in September from 9:00AM-12:00PM. The last day and time for donation drop-off will be Sunday, September 27, from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

Our Auction and Raffle site will go LIVE and the bidding can BEGIN on Saturday, October 10. The auction will remain open for four (4) weeks.

The Auction and Raffles will close on Saturday, November 7, at 9:00AM.

We will begin notifying winners on Saturday, November 7 between 12:00 and 5:00pm.

Pick up days and times will be Saturday, November 7 and 14, from 3:00pm-5:00pm and Sunday, November 8 and 15, from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

All winnings must be picked up by 12:00PM NOON on Sunday, November 15.



open wide our hearts

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

Racism and Migration in the United States

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 is rooted in a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of people of different ethnic backgrounds. It does not reflect the love of neighbor that the Lord calls us to have. It denies the beauty of the diversity of God’s plan. Racism manifests itself in sinful individual actions, which contribute to structures of sin that perpetuate division and inequality. One area where racism has become evident is in the way that the United States has approached the issue of migration, historically and even today.



Ethnicity has long been a factor guiding migration policy in the United States. One of the earliest and most overt examples of this was the forced migration and enslavement of millions of African people to colonial North America. Slavery, and the racist ideas the slave trade was

built upon, informed the development of migration policy. Another example was the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a federal law that effectively barred Chinese migration to the United States.

In the early twentieth century, eugenics became popular among many of the political and scientific elite. Though false, it was upheld as science wherein biological principles were used to differentiate between what were perceived as superior and inferior races. Opponents of mass immigration believed that non-Catholic Northern European or Anglo-Saxon bloodlines were superior to those who originated outside of northern Europe. Policies enacted based on eugenics responded to fears that unrestricted migration from Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia, or Africa, would “dilute” the Anglo-Saxon nature of life in the United States.

This same ideology reached a high point with the passage of the National Origins Act in 1924, which imposed a quota system that significantly restricted immigration from countries in the Eastern hemisphere into the United States. Western hemisphere countries were exempt. This system remained in place for four decades, ending with the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

Although the overt racial discrimination that was built into the quota system was eliminated, many migrant communities continue to experience racism in life in the United States. Hispanics and other migrant populations are often

discriminated against in hiring, housing, educational opportunities, and in the criminal justice system.

Though the Gospel calls us to welcome the stranger, many immigrants and refugees are met with fear, judgement and hatred. Racist rhetoric that marginalizes and causes discrimination against migrant populations is common. In response, the church must provide a counter-example for those who use race to deny the God-given dignity of people who are migrants. As Catholics, we are called to welcome newcomers upon their arrival and help to ease their transitions into life here in the United States. A truly welcoming community does not emerge by chance but is established through the hard work and conviction of local residents, through direct

service, sharing experiences, faith, advocacy, and institution building.

In their pastoral letter *[Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#)*, the bishops of the United States and Mexico emphasized the importance of encounter in the process of conversion. *Strangers No Longer* reminds us that “part of the process of conversion of mind and heart deals with confronting attitudes of cultural superiority, indifference, and racism; accepting migrants not as foreboding aliens, terrorists, or economic threats, but rather as persons with dignity and rights, revealing the presence of Christ; and recognizing migrants as bearers of deep cultural values and rich faith traditions.”

For More Information

- [Justice for Immigrants Campaign](#)
- [USCCB Committee on Migration and Refugee Services](#)
- [Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope](#), Pastoral Letter of the U.S. and Mexican Bishops
- [USCCB Committee on Cultural Diversity](#)

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 Day of Pardon](#))





Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
August 23, 2020

Upon this Rock

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Saint Peter's Basilica is built on the tomb of Peter, which literally serves as the rock on which the Church is built. Peter states his faith, acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God, in the name of the other apostles. In reply, the Lord reveals his intended mission for Peter: to become the visible foundation of the Church.

This account also tells us that Peter's act of faith did not come through "flesh and blood," that is, through his human abilities, but through a particular revelation from God. By contrast, right afterward, as Jesus foretells his passion, death, and resurrection, Peter "began to rebuke him," denying that this would

ever happen (Matthew 16:22). Jesus scolds him in return.

Peter shows his human weakness and what he is: a stone along the path on which men can stumble. In this scene, the drama of each soul and the history of the papacy and Church itself are anticipated. There is the joint presence of divine assistance, by which the papacy constitutes the Church's foundation throughout history, and human weakness, which is also evident through the centuries and can be transformed only through abandonment to God's action.

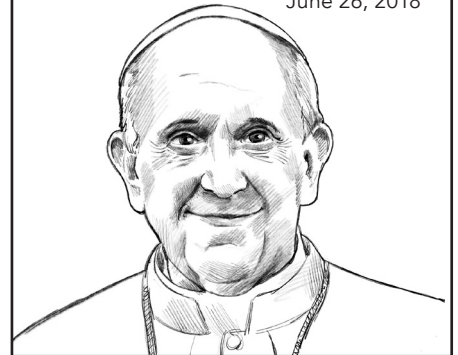
In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly promises the forces of evil will not prevail. Prophets such as Jeremiah (1:18–19) were threatened only by human enemies, whereas Peter will have to be defended from a supernatural evil. Jeremiah receives a promise that affects him as a person and his prophetic ministry; Peter receives assurances concerning the future of the Church and the new community founded by Christ "upon this rock." +

The Lord reveals his intended mission for Peter: to become the visible foundation of the Church.

A Word from Pope Francis

The acceptance of our body as a gift from God is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father...Thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy an absolute power over creation.

Address to Pontifical Academy for Life,
June 26, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How willing are you to let the pope, Peter's successor, confirm your faith today?
- What are you doing to ensure your faith is built on a solid foundation?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 22:19–23

What he opens, no one will shut, what he shuts, no one will open.

Romans 11:33–36

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever.

Matthew 16:13–20

[Jesus said,] "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

Want to Be in that Number?

By Kathleen M. Basi

When I was a child, I had a book about saints that I loved. It was filled with color pictures and heroic, larger-than-life stories. I spent hours trying to decide whether I liked Catherine of Siena or Catherine of Alexandria better. I felt as if I ought to like Siena better for cutting her hair off and being a nun and all, but Alexandria's picture was prettier.

It was years before I realized most of these people weren't the golden-haired northern Europeans portrayed in my book.

It was later still before I realized that by focusing on legends and miracles, I had turned sainthood into something reserved for a select few—something far beyond the reach of an ordinary mortal like me.

These days, I prefer to think of the saints as real people, flawed and fragile, representing every country and culture on earth. Yet for all their diversity, each of them sought exactly what I seek: discernment and courage to walk in the footsteps of Christ in a way that is authentic both to his example and to the time and place in which I live.

Now, my favorite stories speak not of miracles, but of extraordinary courage in ordinary situations—like Elizabeth Ann Seton, who, as an impoverished widow, founded the first parochial school in this country, along with a new order of religious—all while raising her own children.



They speak of deeply practical courage in extraordinary circumstances—like Maximilian Kolbe, who willingly starved to death in place of a fellow concentration-camp prisoner in Auschwitz. In my opinion, that would be even harder than volunteering for a firing squad, where at least the end would come quickly.

And then there are figures with checkered pasts, like Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton—those who don't have feast days in the Church calendar but whose words and actions have reverberated like earthquakes, reshaping the foundation of my faith.

Real people. Real lives. People stumbling through their world in all its messiness, trying to find the path to holiness amid chaos and to identify their

individual purpose for why God placed them on this earth. Those people give me hope. If they managed to find their purpose, maybe I can, too.

It's no longer enough for me to read a paragraph or two about the legendary exploits of those with "Saint" in front of their names. I want to know how the real people behind those legends lived. How they learned to mirror God while surrounded by cranky kids and clueless coworkers and spouses who insist on using dish towels to wipe dirty mouths. Because that is the path I need illuminated. +

***Real people. Real lives.
The saints stumbled through
their world trying to find
holiness amid chaos,
just like we do.***



***Lord, you entrusted the keys
of the kingdom of heaven
to your people. Help me be your
wise and responsible servant.***

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 24–29

Monday, St. Bartholomew:
Rv 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51


Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17 / Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18 / Mt 23:27–32

Thursday, St. Monica:
1 Cor 1:1–9 / Mt 24:42–51

Friday, St. Augustine:
1 Cor 1:17–25 / Mt 25:1–13

Saturday, St. John the Baptist:
1 Cor 1:26–31 / Mk 6:17–29

Bringing Home
the Word 

August 23, 2020

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