



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

August 9, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

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

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: Holy, Holy, Holy

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 Whatsoever You Do
Eye Has Not Seen

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia

✠ 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 2, 2020

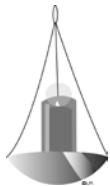
Offertory	\$7470.87
Property Management	1365.09
Parish to Parish	141.00

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

August 9, 2020	NH Missionaries Abroad & Migrant & Refugee Ministry
August 16, 2020	Fuel



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

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.



Assumption

The church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary each year on August 15. Because the Assumption falls on a Saturday this year, it is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation in 2020.

Vigil Liturgy on Saturday August 15 at 4 PM is for the 20th Ordinary Sunday.



**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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, August 12

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH PLAISTOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ALL DAY

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

Thursday, August 13

8:30 AM - 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
1:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Parish Hall *Plaistow*

Saturday, August 15

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, August 8 ~ Dominic Guzman, Friar & Founder / Vigil / 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

I 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

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

8:00 AM George Moulaison by his family
Newton

10:00 AM Deceased members of the Jesionowski Family
Plaistow

Monday, August 10 ~ Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

2 Cor 9: 6-10; Jn 12: 24-26

8:00 AM Helen Colantuono by Cathy Smith
Newton

Tuesday, August 11 ~ Clare of Assisi, Nun & Founder

Ez 2:8-3: 4; Mt 18: 1,5, 10, 12-14

8:00 AM John & Mary Duhamel by Edward Duhamel
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 12 ~ Jane Frances de Chantal, Nun

Ez: 9: 1-7, 10: 18-22; Mt 18: 15-20

6:30 PM Mark Hammond by Cathy Smith
Plaistow

Thursday, August 13~ Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Pries, Martyrs at Rome

Ez 12: 1-12; Mt 18: 21-19:1

8:00 AM Robert Morse by Bonnie & Roy LaJoie
Newton

Friday, August 14~ Maxmillian Kolbe, Friar & Martyr

Ez 16: 1-15, 60, 63; Mt 19: 3-12

No Mass

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

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.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."**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

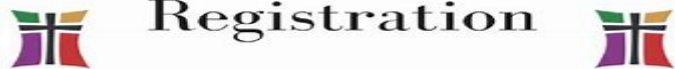
✧ PARISH DIRECTORY ✧

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	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.

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.



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>

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

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://wwmema.org/>.



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL – SALEM NH

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 grant/tuition credit for your first year, \$500 in the second year. St. Joseph Regional Catholic School 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.stiosephschools.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

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. 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 Voting

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 and likeness of God and equal in dignity, or it can be systemic, where practices or policies treat certain groups of people unjustly. One example of systemic racism is lack of access to the vote for some communities of color.



The Church teaches that all persons have both a legal right and a responsibility to have their voice heard in the public square to promote human dignity and the common good of society. As people of faith, we have the obligation to help shape the moral character of society by voting and other acts of public participation. We also must act to ensure that the right to vote is protected for all citizens. This has often been threatened for many minorities in the U.S.

“Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality – economic and social – that we still see all around us.”

– U.S. bishops, Open Wide Our Hearts

Sixty years ago, the United States Commission on Civil Rights [documented](#) a history of pervasive discrimination toward minorities in all aspects of voting, despite the 1870 Fifteenth Amendment that prohibits denying citizens the right to vote because of “[race](#), [color](#), or previous condition of servitude.” Since the 1870s, threats of violence and actual violence, especially in the South, had been used to discourage African Americans from voting. Government officials openly opposed minority voting. For example, U.S. Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi called for Klansmen to visit African Americans the night before elections to send a message that they should not try to vote. [Poll “taxes”](#) became a part of the election system in many states, requiring money from poor sharecroppers for voting privileges. Literacy tests were another systematic attempt to deny voters of color access to the voting booth: in states where educational opportunities for minorities were very limited, many African Americans had little

or no literacy skills. Some of [these tests](#) were designed so no one could pass, such as demands to recite the entire U.S. Constitution or to count the bubbles in a bar of soap to prove math abilities. Gerrymandering, the practice of redrawing voting district boundaries, was historically [used to suppress](#) the African American vote.

These injustices prompted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was initially successful in eliminating many of the barriers to voting for minorities. However, a 2018 Report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights detailed a [decline](#) in the Act's enforcement. The report suggests Latino Americans, Native Americans, and African Americans are facing new barriers to voting. [Some Catholic voices](#) are raising concerns about voter identification laws seen in many states in recent years. The Maryland Catholic Conference [opposed one such](#) legislative proposal in 2017, which would "make voting more difficult for people with disabilities, the elderly, and the poor," who "have already established their identities via voter registration."

State Catholic conferences have also been vocal about other issues related to access to voting, including [gerrymandering](#) and [restoration of voting rights](#). Others raise concerns about restrictions on early voting, lack of local and accessible registration opportunities and precinct voting locations

Pray with St. John Paul II

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

(especially true in the South and on Native American reservations), and illegal purges of voting rolls, which disproportionately affect African-American and Latino American voters. [One in ten Latinos](#) have been harassed at polling places.



Today, too many barriers to the right to vote remain for minorities. In response, we are called to work to ensure that all are able to exercise their rights, as faithful citizens, to raise their voices in the public square.



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Bringing Home the Word

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

August 9, 2020

Walking in Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Giovanni Lanfranco's painting *Christ Saves Peter from Sinking in the Water* is placed in a rather hidden place in the Vatican—on purpose. When a newly elected pope walks out of the Sistine Chapel, he processes across the Sala Regia (regal room) and into the Loggia della Benedizione (blessing hall) to step out onto the façade of St. Peter's and greet the world as pope for the first time. Along the way he passes this painting of Peter sinking in the water. It speaks to that sinking feeling he probably experiences at that time!

This Gospel passage holds a great lesson for us all, even the pope. When Jesus comes walking on the water, he scares the disciples; they think he is a ghost. Sometimes Jesus scares us by what he asks, by how he wants to bless and shape us if we say yes. Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but Peter says, "Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." That the ghostly figure responds doesn't prove it is Jesus; it just proves whoever it is has heard Peter and answered.

To really know if it is Jesus, Peter has to get out of the boat. He has to walk in and take a risk. Only once he steps out on the water, can he do the impossible? Even then, his faith falters and he notices the waves. Such is our experience. Even when we trust, step out, and Jesus does great things, we are still weak! But not to worry: Jesus loves our effort and will always reach out and grab us. In the end, that is what we want, isn't it? To touch Jesus, to know it is him. +

Sunday Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a

Elijah...stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah?

Romans 9:1–5

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the holy Spirit.

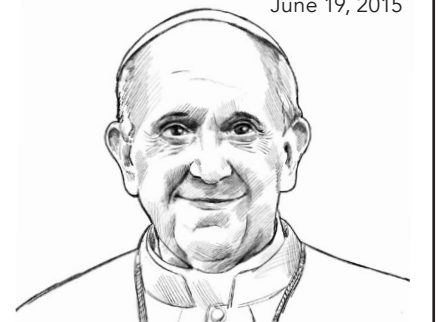
Matthew 14:22–33

Peter said to [Jesus] in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

A Word from Pope Francis

We must ensure that in the usual activities of every Christian community, in parishes, in associations, and movements, there actually be at heart the personal encounter with Christ who communicates himself to us in his word, because, as St. Jerome teaches us, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

Address to Catholic Biblical Federation,
June 19, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- When have you felt Jesus' presence most strongly in your life?
- Which "winds" distract you from Jesus?

*Sometimes Jesus scares us
by what he asks, by how
he wants to bless and
shape us if we say yes.*

The Private Pain of Infertility

By Julie Irwin Zimmerman

The year after our wedding, I sat in church on Mother's Day and daydreamed about how joyful the holiday would be the following spring. My husband and I decided to have a baby, and I imagined we'd have our newborn the next Mother's Day. But the following May and the one after that we went to church with empty arms. To our dismay, we'd been diagnosed as among the 25 percent of married, childless couples in the United States who have trouble conceiving or carrying a baby to term.

It wasn't only Mother's Day that was hard to bear. Baptisms and baby showers were difficult. Sometimes merely seeing a pregnant woman or a couple with a baby sent me into despair.

The months developed an unwelcome rhythm, beginning with hope, then anxiety, and ending in tears. My prayer life had taken on the same rhythm: first, optimistic appeals for pregnancy; then, frantic pleas for help getting through the month; and finally, silent anguish when I felt my prayers had been ignored. I wondered: What have we done to deserve this? Why hasn't our simple wish for a child been granted?

Although infertility is common, it can be isolating to sufferers. Often friends and family don't know what to say, make awkward jokes, or avoid the



topic altogether. There are moral, ethical, and financial mine fields to navigate, and it's easy for spouses to disagree about what to do.

Couples facing infertility have three options: seek medical treatment, pursue adoption, or live without children. While it's understandable to want

to end the ordeal of infertility as quickly as possible, these decisions are important ones deserving prayer and discernment.

Catholic teaching on infertility treatment is often misunderstood. While the Catholic Church encourages couples to welcome children, not all medical options for infertility are considered acceptable. Surgeries and treatments that restore or enhance a couple's ability to conceive naturally or which assist the conjugal act are encouraged. Procedures that involve a third party, replacing natural conception or the conjugal act—artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, and donor eggs or sperm—are considered unacceptable.

A document by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology," reiterates the long-standing position of the Church. Fortunately, there are an increasing number of physicians using NaPro Technology, which treats infertility in harmony with Church

teaching. The Pope Paul VI Institute is a leader in the field, and an internet search can help couples find local providers.

Adoption is also a path to parenthood that's filled with many blessings. Seeking out adoptive parents and hearing their stories can affirm for infertile couples the role God played in bringing them together.

And, of course, even in the midst of infertility, couples should take time to nurture their relationships and acknowledge that they're already a family. A weekend away, a walk in the woods, even setting aside dinner hours free from infertility talk helped my husband and me remind ourselves of our love and how satisfying our marriage was.

The experience of infertility helped me understand what Jesus did when he willingly accepted his cross. Before encountering infertility, I still believed if I worked hard enough at something, I could achieve it. Those years taught me a difficult, invaluable lesson about giving up control over my future and trusting God to reveal a future that was beyond my hopes and fears.

To learn more about Catholic teaching on reproductive technologies, please visit uscbb.org/LifeGivingLove. +



Lord, you taught your disciples to pray. Help me cultivate the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 10–15

Monday, St. Lawrence:
2 Cor 9:6–10 / Jn 12:24–26


Tuesday, St. Clare:
Ez 2:8–3:4 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday, Weekday:
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22 / Mt 18:15–20

Thursday, Weekday:
Ez 12:1–12 / Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday, St. Maximilian Kolbe:
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63 or 16:59–63 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary:
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

August 9, 2020

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