



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

4:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: Gather Us In

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100)

*All the earth proclaim the Lord,
Sing your praise to God.*

Preparation Christians, Let Us Love One Another

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion Ubi Caritas
Bread Of Life

Recessional: The Spirit Sends Us Forth

✠ 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!

Because of an early publishing deadline, totals for September 6 will be listed in the September 20 Bulletin



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.

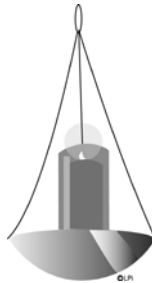
UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 13 Catholic University &
US Bishops Office
September 20 Fuel

The annual Mission Co-op collection was cancelled for this year, any contributions will be forwarded to the Diocese for distribution to missionary churches.

MEMORIAL 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. 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. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.



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.

A proposal for parking lot remediation on both campuses is currently in the works, we are hoping to be able to complete this project before the snow flies!

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



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 will use the website [BiddingOwl](http://BiddingOwl.com) which will enable us to host our Silent Auction and Theme Basket raffles, and our famous Ca\$h raffle, Wine Raffle and a raffle for a homemade quilt donated by Barbara Lawrence.

Your donations and creativity are needed to make our virtual Fair a reality! **Donations are welcome every Saturday in September from 3-5 PM, and every Sunday from 9 am - Noon in the Hall at Plaistow.** The FAIR goes LIVE on Saturday, October 10!

See the insert in the Bulletin today for more information!

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



**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. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**

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.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholicstv.org

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass

Salt & Light TV

saltandlighttv.org

Eternal Word Television

ewtn.com

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Fall even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Fall months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, September 16

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, September 17

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

Saturday, September 19

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs with all precautions as restrictions ease.



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.

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.amazonsmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 12 ~ 23rd Weekday / Vigil of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor 10:14-22; Lk 6:43-49 (Day)

Sir 27:30- 28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Louise Waters by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, September 13 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30- 28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

8:00 AM Richard Lachance by Jack & Barbara Brotz
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, September 14~ Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

8:00 AM Roy Lajoie by Lajoie Family
Newton

Tuesday, September 15 ~ OL of Sorrows

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Jn 19:25-27

8:00 AM Albert & Barbara Tremblay by Robert King & Jennifer Lyons
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 16 ~ Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 7:31-35

6:30 PM Marc Hammond by Walter & Jean Lord
Plaistow

Thursday, September 17 ~ Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Teacher of the Church

1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, September 18 ~ 24th Weekday

1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3

No Mass

Saturday, September 19 ~ 24th Weekday / Vigil of the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15 (Day)

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a (Vigil)

4:00 PM Frank Szczapa (4th Anniv) by his family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 20 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

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

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

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 church at Plaistow** 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.

TODAY AT
NOON!

FOR THE RECORD...

We need your help to keep our Parish 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>.



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.**

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szczapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ Parish News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

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

HELP FOR LEBANON

Relief and assistance for the people of Beirut can be donated through the Catholic Near East Association cnewa.org or through the American Catholic Church charitable organization Catholic Relief Services www.crs.org.



GIRL SCOUTS MEETING

Join the fun on September 17 outdoors at Holy Angel's School Parking Lot (rain or shine) from 5 -6 PM for a free Girl Scout Animal Dance Party. Bring a friend and make new ones. Parents & Caregivers, you are invited too! Get more information at customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org or call Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains at 888-474-9686.



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.

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 \$100 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/>.

TAI CHI RETURNS!

The Parish will once again offer Tai Chi classes beginning on September 24. Classes will be held on Thursday at 3 PM and at 7 PM. A minimum of three(3) students per class will be needed to hold the class. Social distancing and all COVID-19 protocols, including masks are required. Contact the Parish Office to register. Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups.

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 the Diocese of Manchester voting page for information on how to register and how to vote.

www.catholicnh.org/community/public-issues/voting

Visit www.usccb.org for more information about making prudent decisions in the political process.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.



Ever wonder how you can make a difference for those in your community?

Saint Vincent de Paul's Annual Fundraiser, the Walk for the Poor, is our largest fundraiser. This year, the need is greater than it has ever been. We all know more people are struggling financially than ever before. They are looking for a hand up to get them through this rough patch. This is where the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** can help. We give that hand up - to help pay rent, put food on their table, get their car repaired to be able to go to work, keep their home heated, get medicine they require, etc. We want to have the funds to be able to help anyone who asks, but we need your help in doing that! Please consider joining our walk this year. We would love to see families walking to help other families. We encourage people to walk in memory of a loved one - what a beautiful way to be remembered. Every dollar raised goes directly to helping people in our community.

This year, there are two options for our walk:

Option 1 - Walk with us on September 26, 2020

We will leave from Mary, Mother of the Church by proceeding left onto Amesbury Road, right onto Bear Hill Road and back, which is a little over a mile. Registration will be at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10 a.m. Water, Gatorade and tee-shirts will be available. We will be socially distancing as we are walking.

OR

Option 2 - Walk "Virtually" ANYTIME from September 26 through October 10, 2020 virtually. Walk your dog, do a family walk or hike, walk on your treadmill at the gym, walk around your neighborhood – just please WALK! Send us a picture of you walking, (if you want) and we will post it on our Facebook page.

Both options require you to fill out a simple registration form at <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2503>

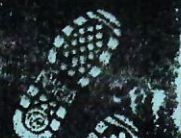
If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Madeiros madeiros7@msn.com or Susan Mokray suziqmo@aol.com visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SVDP/?ti=as

The Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a national event coordinated by the Development Team at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Will you walk a mile with us to support our mission to help the poor in our community?



FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK/RUN
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Walker/Runner Pledge Sheet

Walker's Full Name:

SVdP Conference/Council Name:

Donor's Name	Donor's Address	Pledge \$ Amount	Paid
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
Total			

St Luke's VIRTUAL Christmas Fair 2020

Can you donate....Lottery Tickets, Lots & Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets ● Original Artwork ● New (like-new) items in original boxes: Toys, Fun Gadgets, Power Tools, Items for men, women, boys or girls ● WINE WINE WINE: White wine, Red wine, Pink wine, Sparkling wine, etc. ● Jewelry: new/like-new Rings, Watches, Chains, Necklaces, Earrings, or Bracelets

Perhaps you could gather new items to make a Theme Basket for the Fair!

Here are some ideas: "As Seen On TV", Baby Boy Bundle, Baking, Birthday-In-A-Box, Breakfast-In-A-Basket, Caffeine Fix, Christmas, Chocolate Madness, Cooking, COVID Safety!, Crazy for Cats, Family Fun, Fishing, Fabulous Foodie, Football Fans, Game Night, Gardening, Golf, 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

Donations are starting to come in (THANK YOU)

All donations are needed by Sunday, September 27. Can you help receive donations, for an hour or so, on any of the following days, downstairs in the Parish Hall in Plaistow?

Saturday, Sept. 19 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Sept. 20 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Sept. 26 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Sept. 27 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

If you can help, please email Julie Lamere with your availability: stlukenhfair@gmail.com

... Masks Are Required ...

Four Fabulous Raffles

You'll notice at the back of both churches we have full-color Posters of our raffles as well as stacks of Cash Raffle tickets just waiting to be picked up and sold to your friends and family!! Please grab a few stacks and SELL SELL SELL!

Additionally you can use the "Order Form", located on the other side of this bulletin insert, to purchase raffle tickets for our Big Raffles: **The Ca\$h Raffle, The Wine Raffle, The Quilt Raffle**, and a new raffle for a meticulously hand-made **Victorian Doll House!**

Simply fill out the necessary information, Indicate quantities for each desired raffle, Add up how much you owe, Make your check payable to: St. Luke's Parish, Pop the form and check in an envelope marked RAFFLES and drop it in the collection basket - OR mail it to: St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Attn: RAFFLES, 8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow, NH 03865

"Raffle Tickets! Get Your Raffle Tickets HERE!!"



CASH RAFFLE with a 2020 Theme

1st Prize: \$1,020.20 — 2nd Prize: \$220.20 — and four 3rd Prizes: \$50 each
\$1.00 each, or **SIX (6) chances to WIN for \$5.00**

VICTORIAN DOLL HOUSE RAFFLE

Enter to win this one-of-a-kind Doll House 35W x 33H x 25D)
comes complete with furniture for six (6) charming rooms!

Purchase one (1) ticket for \$5.00, or **FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$20.00**



QUILT RAFFLE

Enter to win this cheery, hand-made Quilt (62"x87") complete with two (2) matching Pillows!

Purchase one (1) ticket for \$5.00 or **FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$20.00**

WINE RAFFLE 2020

1st Prize: 50+ bottles of WINE!! — 2nd Prize: 12 bottles of wine of various types.
One (1) for \$10.00, **THREE (3) for \$25.00, or FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$40.00**



RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM (checks payable to : St Luke the Evangelist Parish)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Raffle	Quantity of Tickets	Total \$
Cash Raffle	_____	\$ _____
Victorian Doll House	_____	\$ _____
Quilt Raffle	_____	\$ _____
Wine Raffle	_____	\$ _____
		Total Owed \$ _____

Once the order form and proper payment are received, you will be emailed confirmation of receipt and assurance that your tickets have been filled out and added to the appropriate Raffle.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 13, 2020

Right Judgment

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Often when we think of a judge, we think of severity or cold justice. Courtroom and criminal-justice dramas—even some news coverage of major crimes and scandals—love depicting the offender as receiving his or her just rewards, with the judge or prosecutor smugly reflecting or sighing in relief.

But in the scriptural sense, a judge is much more. A good judge is an educator, teacher, and parent. Good judges promote wise living and respect for authority and the law. Their tools are sometimes mercy, sometimes penance, but always prompted by love.

A better image to understand the judge's role is a parent educating his or her child. Sometimes education means letting something slide; sometimes it means holding the child accountable. Both can be expressions of love.

Today's readings caution us against selfish passions that prompt us to judge. One who has been forgiven much but is then harsh with others will be severely punished—or as Sirach puts it, God "remembers their sins in detail."

Mercy toward others is key to the Gospel message. Some think they are good Christians because they don't steal and haven't killed anyone. They may even be active in their parish but are highly critical of others.

Remember, as Jesus said: "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you" (Matthew 7:2). And, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart" (Matthew 18:35). +

Sunday Readings

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Romans 14:7–9

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 18:21–35

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

*Good judges promote
wise living and respect for
authority and the law.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The increase in the rates of suicide in your cities, as well as bullying and various kinds of neediness, are creating new forms of alienation....

I ask you to pay special attention to [the young] and their needs. Try to create spaces...of generous and selfless love...to everyone, and not only to those who have "made it."

Meeting with bishops, Tokyo,
November 23, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How forgiving, patient, and kind am I on a regular basis?
- How forgiving, patient, and kind would others say I am?

Meaningless Ritual? Never!

By Johan van Parys

My liturgy professor once shocked me out of my post-lunch comatose state one afternoon by saying, “If the Eucharist does not cause you to want to make a difference in the world, then you are doing nothing more than making meaningless, ritual turns around an altar.” What could he possibly mean? Surely the Eucharist is more than just ritual turns, even if it doesn’t cause me to want to change the world.

Since that day, I have been affirmed in my thinking that the celebration of the Eucharist is never a meaningless ritual. The liturgy is always transformative, regardless of anyone’s state of mind or ensuing actions. Although we may not notice this in the short term, we can be assured of the efficacy of the liturgy in the long term. Just as water carves out even the hardest rock, liturgy molds us all into the image of Christ—even those with the hardest of hearts.

Though the connection between celebrating the Eucharist and working for the betterment of the world is apparent each time we celebrate the Eucharist, it’s made especially clear during the Mass of our Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. On that day, we celebrate the Eucharist (Luke 22:15–20) and we wash feet (John 13:4–17) just as Jesus asked of us during the Last Supper. It’s important to remember to embody these acts we perform so solemnly on Holy Thursday during every day of our life. Christ



mandates us to pray for the needs of the world and, at the same time, work toward a better world. These two Christian characteristics of prayer and action are not mutually exclusive—prayer without action is hollow, while action without prayer is arrogance.

This all became clear to me one particular Holy Thursday many years ago. As our priest finished the washing of feet, I noticed a man entering the building and walking briskly toward the front of the church. He walked right into the sanctuary and sat down. Without hesitation, our priest walked over to the man and the two engaged in a brief conversation. He then motioned to the

servers, who brought a pitcher and bowl. The man took off his shoes, revealing his unwashed feet. Our priest knelt down and slowly washed the man’s feet. When finished, they both got up and hugged. The man walked out, never to be seen again. As we processed the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose later that evening, I couldn’t help but think that it was Jesus who walked in and sat down to have his feet washed right in our midst.

By the way, my former professor denies making the statement at the top of this column. He agrees that the celebration of the Eucharist is never a series of empty turns around an altar but always efficacious and constantly invites us to be Christ to the world. While some people know that and act upon it rather easily, others need a professor’s shocking wake-up call and the extraordinary opportunity to see Jesus’ feet being washed. +

PRAYER

*Lord, I am grateful for your
endless mercy. Give me
the humility and courage
to forgive those who have
hurt me.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 14–19

Monday, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:
Nm 21:4b–9 / Phil 2:6–11 / Jn 3:13–17


Tuesday, Our Lady of Sorrows: 1 Cor 12:12–14,
27–31a / Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35

Wednesday, Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian:
1 Cor 12:31–13:13 / Lk 7:31–35

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:1–11 / Lk 7:36–50

Friday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:12–20 / Lk 8:1–3

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49 / Lk 8:4–15

Bringing Home
the Word 
September 13, 2020

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