

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

September 27, 2020

Twenty-Sixth Sunday In
Ordinary Time

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

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: At The Name Of Jesus

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100)

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

Preparation What Wondrous Love Is This

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion Unless A Grain Of Wheat
Remember Your Love

Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in **\$9700.00 each week** in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). 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. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

September 20, 2020

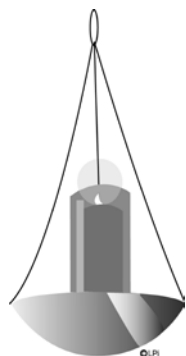
Offertory	\$6,058.06
Fuel	\$1,217.00



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 27	Priest Retirement Fund
October 4	Property Management
October 11	Fuel
October 18	World Mission Sunday
October 25	No Second Collection



The Sanctuary Candle in
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
Wallace Antczak
by the Burge family

The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
Mark Hammond
by Walter and Joanne Lord



Out of respect for the Lord 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 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!



**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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, September 30

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, October 1

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

Saturday, October 3

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

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$62.58** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2020.

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 26 ~ Vigil / 26th Sunday in Ord. Time

Eccl 11:9–12:8; Lk 9:43b-45 (Day)

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Phillip and Natalie Gagnon
by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 27 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

8:00 AM Wallace Antczak (Birthday Remembrance)
by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM Roy Lajoie by the Knights of Columbus #6617
Plaistow

Monday, September 28 ~ Wenceslaus, Martyr;

Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

Jb 1:6-22; Lk 9:46-50

8:00 AM Al DiPietro by the Graziano family
Newton

Tuesday, September 29 ~ Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rev 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51

8:00 AM Cathy Woodward by the Graziano family
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 30 ~ Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:57-62

6:30 PM The Graziano Family
by Nancy and Stanley Graziano
Plaistow

Thursday, October 1 ~ Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Jb 19:21-27; Lk 10:1-12

8:00 AM Grace and Philip Ross
by Lisa and Charlie Angwin
Newton

Friday, October 2 ~ Holy Guardian Angels

Jb 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Mt 18:1-5, 10

No Mass

Saturday, October 3 ~ Vigil / 27th Sunday in Ord. Time

Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Lk 10:17-24 (Day)

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Roland and Mary Guilmette by the Matson family
Plaistow

Sunday, October 4 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

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

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.



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.



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

✠ 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

VOTE 2020

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." (US Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* no. 13.)

Go to the voting page on the Diocese of Manchester website for information on registration and voting in the 2020 elections.

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

Visit

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

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.

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.

FALL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Libasci invites couples celebrating 5, 25, and 50 year anniversaries to watch and unite their prayers with the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via livestream on **Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 PM**. In addition to the worship aid and a special novena for marriage, couples will receive an invitation to a post-Mass virtual gathering where they will have an opportunity to speak with other couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. To register, please go to <https://fallanniversary2020.eventbrite.com>.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

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

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$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 **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and at 7:00 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.

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM

The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory classes will be held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mary Menendez, CFCP, St. Gerard Majella FertilityCare Services, at 603-642-8050 or CreightonFertility@yahoo.com.

Weekly VIRTUAL Fair Update

You've really come through with the wine and a wide variety of items for bidding on our auction site. **THANK YOU**

New Toys, Fun Gadgets, Power Tools and/or Items for Men are still welcome. **The last day for donations, other than wine or lottery tickets is Sunday, September 27, from 9:00AM – 1:00PM.**

We still need Lottery Tickets for our giant "Rake In The Cash" auction item. These can be mailed or dropped in the collection baskets up until Sunday, November 1st.

Our Four Raffles: We have photocopied the Raffle Order Forms and they're now available at the back of the churches to take and sell to your friends and family. Be sure all the information is filled in on the form as well as quantities indicated for each desired raffle, add up how much is owed, and then have checks made payable to: St. Luke's Parish. Pop the forms and checks in an envelope marked RAFFLES and drop it in the collection baskets - OR mail to: **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Attn: RAFFLES, 8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow, NH 03865**

Here are the important upcoming dates and then, on the reverse side, you will find step by step instructions on "How to Create an Account on BiddingOwl".

KEY DATES

Saturday, October 10, our online auction and raffle site will go LIVE and bidding can begin. Our auction will remain open for four (4) weeks.

Sunday, November 1, last day to donate Lottery Tickets.

Sunday, November 1, last day to drop raffle orders in collection baskets.

Saturday, November 7, at 9:00AM, our auction and raffles will close.

Saturday, November 7, after 12:00PM, we will begin notifying winners.

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.

Sunday, November 15 is the last day to pick up winnings, unless prior arrangements are made.

How to Create an Account on Bidding Owl

1. Go to www.biddingowl.com
2. Click on the "[Bidder Sign In](#)" button at the top center of the screen
3. Click on "[Register](#)" in the top right of the screen
4. Fill out the "[Bidder Sign Up](#)" form
5. Check off the boxes indicating that you ...
 - A. Are not a robot
 - B. Agree with the [terms & conditions](#)
(it is always recommended that one read the terms and conditions)
6. Click the green "[Sign Up](#)" button. You will be brought to a new screen that asks you to "[Check your email to activate your account](#)".
 - A. [Go to your email](#)
 - B. [Open the email](#) BiddingOwl sent you
 - C. [Read the email](#) then, click the blue "[click here](#)" link that is 3 lines down in the email. This will activate your account and you will be brought back to BiddingOwl's Log In screen automatically.
7. "[Log In](#)" using the email address and password you signed up with.
8. You will be brought to a screen that says "checkout", "my high bids", and "my losing bids". This screen is called the Control Panel. In the upper right corner, you will see your first name and the "My Account" button. Click on "[My Account](#)". You will see options like: Account Details, My Bids, Order History, and Log Out. "Account Details" is where you can change any of your account information if necessary. Congratulations, you have successfully created an Account on BiddingOwl.
9. If you need help, email Julie Lamere at stlukenhfair@gmail.com. Leave her your phone number so she can give you a call and try to help you over the phone.

Even though our site is not yet open for bids, you can see how it's coming along by typing the following URL into your search bar. Our auction site will be live Saturday, October 10.

<https://www.biddingowl.com/StLukesChristmasFair>

Please feel free to email all your friends and family. Let them know we're having an online fundraising event and share the above URL with them. The more people we can bring to our online event, the better!!

Next week, we will share more about how to bid on items or purchase online raffle tickets.

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

The vineyard in the Gospel represents the people of Israel. Jesus tells about a father who asks his two sons to go to work in the vineyard. The first son refuses but changes his mind and goes. The second son agrees but does not follow through. The parable challenges the leaders to follow through like the first son and care for the people—especially the poor and the sick. Your family can learn from this parable to be willing to evaluate your decisions and choices and to follow through on all of your good intentions.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Talk with your child about all the chores everyone in your household has to do—laundry, dishes, gardening, working for a living, cleaning, cooking. Then talk specifically about the chores your child has to do. Let the child tell you the story of the two sons who were asked to work in the field. Talk, too, about all the choices your child has to make each day. Remind everyone in the family that God is always there to help with choices.

Promise (Grades K–1): Ask your child to share “The Story of Two Sons” with the family. Then let your child show you how to play the game about Jesus gathering friends. If your child needs help, the simple directions are on page 3 of the lesson. Have a discussion about the choices your family members have to make each day.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Children of this age know about choices. Ask your child to share the story “Helping Miss Mason” and have the family compare the story with the Sunday Gospel for the week. Talk about the choices you all have to make and ways to help one another make good choices.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This was a busy week in your child's class. The class learned how to locate passages in the Bible. Your young person also learned about the Lectionary used at Mass. Have a good conversation about making wise choices in life. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Clare of Assisi with the family.

Visions (Grades 7–9): This week your youngster learned that people depend on one another. The Gospel parable taught the class that actions speak louder than words. Talk together about how the members of your family help one another. Then look outside your family to name all those people or organizations that rely on members of your family. Discuss how you can make your actions speak louder than your words. Talk about the parable from the Sunday Gospel. Make sure your young person understands it. If there are questions, look for answers together.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the Sunday's Gospel lesson, pray together in your own words that God will help your family to always be ready to respond when God calls you to listen to his Word and to do his work.





Maybe

it's time

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

Maybe it's your time.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow
603 382 8324. www.stlukenh.org



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

September 27, 2020

Say Yes and Go Out

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We can really relate to God when he repeats the people's blame and accusations at him for not being fair. In moments of suffering or injustice, it's easy to pass judgment and blame it all on God. It's especially difficult when innocent and good people (ourselves included) suffer. We're tempted to ask, "Aren't you supposed to treat your friends better?"

We only need to look at Marco Palmezzano's painting *Christ Bearing the Cross* to reconsider our complaints. How have we treated God?

Jesus was and is the most innocent of souls; no other being was or is as good

as Jesus. No one was asked to suffer like him, and he suffered not to gain for himself but to pay our debt. Relating it to today's Gospel lesson, Jesus is the son who, when asked to work in his Father's vineyard, promptly said "yes" and went. Always obedient, always docile, always loving.

Watching Jesus, we hear the echo of St. Paul's letter. Jesus humbly regarded his brothers and sisters as more than himself and was willing to go to the cross and win them back for the Father. Keep in mind, those siblings had destroyed family unity, squandered away their inheritance, sold their birthright, sold him into slavery with their sin, and very often refused his love. Yet "God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God knows his merciful justice well and can kindly and provokingly ask in Ezekiel 18:25, "Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair?" +

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 18:25–28

Since they turned away from all the sins they committed, they shall live.

Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.

Matthew 21:28–32

[Jesus said,] "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

No one was asked to suffer like Jesus, and he suffered not to gain for himself but to pay our debt.

A Word from Pope Francis

Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: "Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving."

Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Am I fair to God by giving him thanksgiving, adoration, and obedience for his love?
- Am I fair to others by offering them gratitude and humble kindness?

I Have No Hands But Yours

By Johan van Parys

My mother was big on two major cleaning efforts each year. The first was Easter cleaning—she argued that just as our souls needed cleansing in preparation for Easter, so did our home. The second was a fall cleaning that coincided with the St. Michael Summer, named for the September 29 feast of the archangels.

Our share in these week-long adventures was a thorough reorganization of our closets. We were instructed to remove every item, discern what we wanted to keep or toss, and then organize all that remained. To this day, I have a perfectly organized closet.

Over the years I've come to appreciate my mom's connection between the physical cleansing of our home and the spiritual cleansing of our heart and soul. As Christians, we're called to search our soul to rid ourselves of everything that keeps us from sharing more perfectly in the Body of Christ. We do this mostly as individuals, but from time to time even the Church takes stock of where we've come from, where we are today, and where we're going.

This kind of spiritual exercise is necessary because being Christian isn't always easy. Neither is being the Church, especially in a constantly changing and challenging world. Some people are



trying to take the Church in a direction that makes it difficult to reconcile with the gospel. Others call for a return to the past, giving in to a false nostalgia for a Church they never knew and that may never have existed. Both responses are ill-fated—we can't go back to the past, and we ought to be true to the gospel.

The only way forward in this age—as in every age—is to engage completely and openly with the world while using the gospel as our compass. The essence of our message never changes. However, the language we use to express it ought to change constantly. Like everything else,

our spiritual lives necessarily evolve—and so does the Church's. The alternative is a slow but sure spiritual demise.

I wish my spiritual home were in as good order as my physical home is. I still hear my mother's voice asking me to clean my room and cleanse my soul. And I take solace in the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that stands abandoned in a small Italian village. Due to years of neglect, the statue is badly in need of repair; it's cracked, and both hands are missing. Someone hung a sign around its neck that says, "I have no hands but yours." This image and invitation should prompt us to analyze our lives so we might be better Christians.

We're called to do this to realize that Christ's invitation is to be his hands, his feet, and his heart. +

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for your example of humble service toward others. Help me to be a humble and loving person toward all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 28–October 3

Monday, Weekday:
Jb 1:6–22 / Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael: Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51

Wednesday, St. Jerome:
Jb 9:1–12, 14–16 / Lk 9:57–62

Thursday, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus: Jb 19:21–27 / Lk 10:1–12

Friday, Holy Guardian Angels:
Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5 / Mt 18:1–5, 10

Saturday, Weekday:
Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17 / Lk 10:17–24