

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

November 22, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King Of The Universe

4:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Found in Bulletin insert

Gathering: Crown Him With Many Crowns

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 97)

*The Lord is King, the Lord is King,
the most high over all the earth.*

Preparation: Whatsoever You Do

Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation

Communion: I Am The Bread Of Life
I Received The Living God

Recessional: To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King

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 meets via Zoom. For more information or to apply, call John and Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.



The altar flowers at Holy Angels Church
this weekend were donated in honor of the
**50th Wedding Anniversary of
Dottie and Tom Pignatiello**



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in **\$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!

November 15, 2020

Offertory	\$5,263.46
Fuel	\$1,259.75



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

November 22	Christmas Flowers
November 29	No Second Collection
December 6	Property Management
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 13	Fuel
December 20	Retired Religious Fund

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 will conclude its Capital Campaign at the end of October. Thanks to your generosity, we re-roofed the entire Plaistow campus, and accomplished smaller projects such as rebuilding the cellar access for the Food Pantry, cleaned and re-piped the septic system at the Parish Center/School, and installed a new chimney pipe in the Parish Center.

When the spring weather returns, we will accomplish other major projects: we have signed an agreement with Petra Paving Inc to seal, remediate and restripe the parking lots on the Newton and Plaistow campuses. We are currently negotiating with a paint contractor for the Newton Church and Parish house and will begin the bidding process for electrical upgrades in both churches.

Thank you for your generous response to our
Parish Capital Campaign

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity
towards the hungry of our area!

**Non-perishable food or
personal care items are
always needed –
donations can be dropped
off at Church or are
welcome at the Parish
Office during regular
business hours.**

Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees will be located in the back of both churches on the weekend of **November 21-22**. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 12-13** (the Third Sunday of Advent).

THANKSGIVING CLOSINGS

In addition to the Parish Office being closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, please note that there will be **NO Mass or Adoration on Thanksgiving Day** in Newton. Our regular weekday Mass and Adoration schedule will resume during the following week.

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 catholictv.org

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

catholictv.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.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, November 22

11:00 AM Vespers and Benediction Newton

Wednesday, November 25

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, November 26

THANKSGIVING DAY
NO DAILY MASS
NO ADORATION

Saturday, November 28

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.

HELP WANTED – ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some rearranging and decorating on **Sunday, November 22 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include Advent decorating and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Advent season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information.



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. Visit us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL>

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324, ext. 315.

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. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, November 21 ~ Vigil / Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Rv 11:4-12; Lk 20:27-40 (Day)

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, November 22 ~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

8:00 AM Teresa Klimauskas by Mary Anne Downs
Newton

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

Monday, November 23 ~ Clement I, Pope and Martyr: Columban, Abbot;

Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Metcalf family
by family
Newton

Tuesday, November 24 ~ Andrew Dũng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21:5-11

8:00 AM Marilyn Ruth Monaghan
by the Graziano family
Plaistow

Wednesday, November 25 ~ Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Thursday, November 26 ~ Weekday

Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a; Lk 21:20-28
No Mass

Friday, November 27 ~ Weekday

Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2; Lk 21:29-33
No Mass

Saturday, November 28 ~ Vigil / First Sunday of Advent

Rv 22:1-7; Lk 21:34-36 (Day)

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mt 13:33-37 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Mary Coltin by the Hammond family
Plaistow

Sunday, November 29 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mt 13:33-37

8:00 AM Peter Teague by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

10:00 AM Roy Lajoie by Janice Bettencourt
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.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

FAITH IN ACTION SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The Knights of Columbus Council 6617 invites parish members to join them for a *Faith In Action Spiritual Reflection*, "Crosses and Crucifixes," on **Saturday, December 12** at the Parish Hall or via Zoom. The reflection will be held from **9:15 AM to 12:30 PM** with a break for lunch, and then continuing to include Mass at 4:00 PM. Various crosses and crucifixes will be examined and aspects explained. Bring your own cross or crucifix to explain to the group. Space is limited. Contact Jim Edwards for a reservation and Zoom instructions at Jimmy69180@hotmail.com or call him at 603-642-5236. No food can be brought to the reflection. However, individual drinks will be provided.

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.



VIRTUAL VOCATION DINNERS

Women in our Diocese who are considering a vocation in the Church or would simply like some help hearing the Lord's call for their life, are invited to a virtual evening of prayer and conversation with the Vocations Team of the Diocese of Manchester. Virtual Miriam Dinner with **women of all ages** will take place on **Friday, November 20 at 7:00 PM**. For more information and to register, visit www.liveinblackandwhite.com.



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.



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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

✠ Parish News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS **ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617**

**The Carts are lined up and ready to go,
Each manned by a Knight through
Market Basket they go,
Filling them up with all kinds of
Thanksgiving delights,
Delivered to families so they will have a
blessed night.**

Again this year, the Knights of Columbus will be donating 10 Thanksgiving Dinners to the parish food pantry for families in need. The dinners will include turkey, all the trimmings, and dessert.

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617 would like to wish you a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The Knights of Columbus are co-sponsoring, with Brother Knight Andy Gagnon, a Christmas Tree Sale on **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 27, 28, and 29 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** on Lover's Lane, Haverhill, MA. All trees are \$40.00. Andy will be donating a minimum of 20 trees to our Food Pantry as he has done in past years. Lover's Lane is a short road off Route 108 at the MA/NH state line – just drive to the end of Lovers Lane for the sale.

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.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season upon us, we also have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the November 29 bulletin is **Monday, November 16 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 20 bulletin is **Monday, December 7 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 27 bulletin is **Monday, December 14 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the January 3 bulletin is **Monday, December 14 at 12:00 Noon.**

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Paul Antkowiak
by his family



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Marcia Gallant
by William Tucker

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels). Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.



THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

Throughout November, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be open near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.

COPING WITH COVID **Online Support Group**

Catholic Charities NH is hosting another online support group. "*Coping with COVID*" will provide key information and coping strategies to help you navigate the current COVID-19 crisis and the uncertainty of the days ahead. The free five-session program will be held on **Tuesdays from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon starting November 17**. Featured speakers, including those from the medical and mental health fields, will help you feel less alone, understand sources of stress, and gain valuable relaxation techniques. To register, visit www.cc-hn.org/coping. You may also call 603-752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.org.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is a relative latecomer to the liturgical calendar of the Roman Church. The Solemnity was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, and was specifically designated to be a “spiritual weapon” against what the Pope saw as two forces destructive of that time: secularism and atheism. The early 1900’s were a time where industrial development saw people living in tenement housing and other inhuman conditions without hope (remember the Child Labor Laws of the U.S. and other social reforms are all products of the post-depression years). The Church also recognized that the world was still reeling from the awful reality of the “war to end all wars,” (!) and the consequences of the rise of national and political movements such as communism, nazism, and fascism which were gaining popularity in Europe. The Church saw a great need to point to another reality - the reality and power of Christ as King and Savior of the world.



The notion of Christ as King refers to Jesus’ human royalty as a Son of David and to his royalty as the divine Son of God. Matthew, who’s Gospel we have heard all this year, implicitly unfolds Jesus’ Kingship as he describes the Kingdom of God and those faithful disciples who act in the world to bring that Kingdom to fulfillment.

This day also marks the end of the liturgical year in the Church. The Solemnity of Christ the King, capping the whole year, encourages us to look back to find signs of God’s grace and power, while looking forward to his coming again in glory, while at the same time looking around to see where Christ’s Kingship shows itself in the world today.

***Join us at 6 PM tonight, Sunday, November 22 in Newton
For Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
as we honor Christ our King.***



Besides sharing Christmas joy through the Giving Tree, our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry provides Christmas Dinners to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for the baskets typically runs to well over \$2000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“Christmas dinner baskets,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Office or Food Pantry and make a contribution in person.

Thank you for your support of the poor among us.

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 25:31–46

This Sunday, we hear Jesus' great parable of judgment. The parable clearly states that all will be judged on the Works of Mercy described in it. We are called to build God's reign on Earth and to share in that reign forever. But to do so, we need to care for the least of God's children and provide food and drink, clothing and shelter, comfort and companionship in order to live full lives. The requirement of God's kingdom is love—love for God that is shown in the way we treat one another.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This Sunday reminds us all that Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead. Engage your child in a conversation about ways he or she can show kindness to others. This week's Thanksgiving feast is a reminder to share blessings. Make sure that your young child is involved when you provide food for the needy.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child learned about the Works of Mercy. Remember that children at this age learn best by imitating the actions of those around them. The more the members of your family perform acts of kindness and generosity, the more those habits are formed in your child. Make sure that your family celebration of Thanksgiving involves sharing with people in need.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week, your child learned that God judges us by how we show love to others, especially through the Works of Mercy. To help the children understand the Works of Mercy mentioned in the Gospel, they played a board game. Have them explain the rules and play the game with your family. Talk about how to see Jesus in the people we meet.

Venture (Grades 4–6): The last Sunday of the Church year is the Solemnity of Christ the King. The lesson of the feast shows that Christ's kingdom is very different. The recipe for entering the Kingdom for all eternity is to recognize Jesus in everyone we meet. Talk together about the Works of Mercy and how you as a family can recognize Jesus and reach out to those who are hungry or thirsty or who need our love and kindness.

Visions (Grades 7–9): This week, your young person learned some very specific examples of the works mentioned in Sunday's Gospel. He or she learned to look at Christ's kingship by finding him in others. Let your young person lead the family in looking for some specific ways you all perform the Works of Mercy—and make plans to do more. Ask your teen to share with the family how Catholic social teaching helps people live to serve others.

Pray Together

In the Gospel, the people asked Jesus, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or naked or in prison?" When you complete your conversation about the Gospel lesson, pray in your own words to answer that question together. Conclude with this simple prayer: "Lord, whatever we do for people in need, we are doing for you."



✠ PARISH INFORMATION ✠

GLUTEN INTOLERANT?

The Parish now provides an option for receiving Holy Communion for anyone suffering from gluten intolerance or celiac disease. We have obtained special altar breads that are fully certified for use at Mass by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and laboratory tested to contain only .001% gluten. Please see the Pastor or the Sacristan before Mass about receiving Communion using one of these special hosts.



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.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office 382-8324.

PARISH POLICY ON GROUPS SEEKING SUPPORT

After consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, and taking into account the many groups that desire the community's support, it has been decided that the following policy be put into place:

- 1. Only Parish groups will be allowed to solicit support for their projects in our churches. This includes groups from within the Parish itself or groups which are based within our Parish.
- 2. Groups from outside the Parish community will be allowed to solicit support from the community *only by rare exception* and with the express consent of the Pastor and Parish Council.
- 3. No group of any kind will be allowed to solicit until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Publicity and other materials may be displayed in the entrances of the Church, but no actual solicitation may occur until after Mass has ended.
- 4. No more than one (1) Parish group may seek the support of the community at one time. This means that there are not to be multiple support efforts on the same weekend.

The Pastor will be the sole arbitrator of scheduling for Parish groups seeking community support. Parish groups should contact the Parish Office to determine availability for scheduling any support event. Thank you for your continuing support for the mission of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A Parish Pastoral Council is primarily charged to assist in the development of mission-focused Parishes rather than programmatic or finance-driven ones. Pastoral Councils attempt to place at the heart of the Parish a consciousness of a zeal for the mission of Jesus Christ. When there is a clear awareness of this "larger vision" proposed by the Gospel and taught by the Church, a Parish finds itself energized by a sense of mission and directed to matters that foster the mission of the Parish, grounded in the mission of Christ (Diocese of Manchester, *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*, 2002). Our Parish Pastoral Council provides invaluable advice to the Pastor and Staff of the Parish through consultation, dialogue and ongoing learning. Our Council generally meets on a monthly basis to discuss Parish life and issues and to assess our ongoing mission as a Catholic community. The members of the Parish Council can be accessed through the Parish Office, or by email at

parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net.

Robert Harb, Chairperson
Cathy Smith
Elaine Kindler
Jack Brotz
Jeffrey Lozeau
Janice Bettencourt
Fr. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB



Bringing Home the Word

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)

November 22, 2020

Actions Matter

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Michelangelo's amazing painting, *The Last Judgment*, takes up the whole of one wall of the Sistine Chapel. It is a reminder of the dramatic moment of Christ's Second Coming, when he will judge the living and the dead. The Father has given all authority to the Son (John 5:22). Michelangelo places in the upper register the symbols of Christ's passion as a way to highlight the instruments of Christ's victory and ours, as well as to show that it was through his loving sacrifice that he has earned the authority to judge the living and the dead.

Christ comes riding on the clouds with his Mother at his side, head turned

and eyes cast down, as the days of her intercession have come to an end. Our chance to appeal to his mercy has passed. We will stand naked before him, and our actions will be the gown that dresses us for the feast of the Lamb (Matthew 22:11).

Jesus, in his mercy, wants no surprises and personally reveals the material to be covered by this final exam. Today's passage highlights that our charity and kindness will go a long way toward him recognizing us at the last day. Scripture even goes so far as to say that this "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Those who know his love and spread it with their actions will be preparing themselves for a blessed judgment.

Jesus makes it clear that our faith will also be a theme upon which he will search our hearts. He desires not mere words, but loving listening and the heeding of his will. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

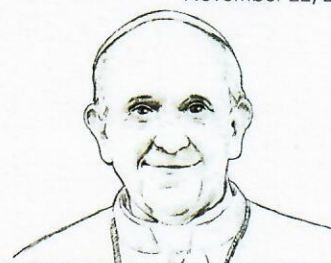
This is a great source of consolation for those who love him sincerely, even if imperfectly. +

***Jesus wants no surprises
and personally reveals the
material to be covered
by our final exam.***

A Word from Pope Francis

The kingdoms of this world at times are sustained by arrogance, rivalries, and oppression; the reign of Christ is a "kingdom of justice, love and peace." For a Christian, speaking of power and strength means referring to the power of the cross, and the strength of Jesus' love: a love which remains steadfast and complete.

—Angelus, Solemnity of Christ the King,
November 22, 2015



Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

I myself will pasture my sheep;
I myself will give them rest—
oracle of the Lord GOD.

Corinthians 15:20–26, 28

The last enemy to be destroyed
is death.

Matthew 25:31–46

[Jesus said,] "And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE? TWO? REFLECTION

- Am I ready for that final exam?
- What should I do today in order to be ready for the loving return of Jesus?

Shaped by the Cross

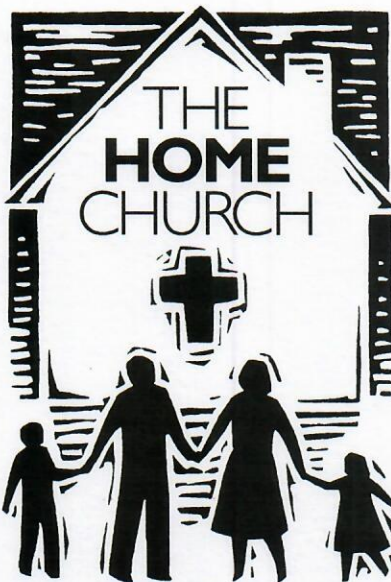
By Johan van Parys

Every night before going to bed, my parents would make the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and whisper, "May God bless you and keep you." Then we would go to our bedrooms, dip our fingers in the small holy water font, and sign ourselves. I remember asking my parents for their blessing before going on a trip or asking the abbot for his blessing before leaving the abbey. These simple signs have left a lasting impression on me.

The cross was everywhere when I was growing up; even today, we find the cross hanging in churches, schools, homes, offices, and cars and around our necks. The priest blesses people with the sign of the cross. Children are marked at their baptism and adults during the Order of Catechumens with the sign of the cross. Christians are shaped by the cross.

We should always remember the importance of the cross in our Christian journey.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s Christiane Brusselmans, the first woman to earn a doctorate in theology from the Catholic University of Louvain, experimented with an ancient process used to bring adults and families into the Church. Following the Second Vatican Council, her work and that of many others resulted in reinstitution of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)—rites lost during the early



Middle Ages due to the shift from adult to infant baptism.

One remarkable rite that marks this process is the Rite of Welcome, in which we admit those seeking baptism in the Catholic Church to the Order of Catechumens. The most moving moment is when the sign of the cross is drawn on the seekers' heart, hands, feet, and shoulders. I remember her instructing us to use big gestures to ensure recipients felt the weight of the cross, especially on their shoulders. The weight of the cross can indeed be heavy.

Our lives as Christians ought to be modeled after the cross. Each year, tens of thousands of people prepare themselves to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They stand in a long

tradition rooted in New Testament times. Those who have been baptized in other Christian denominations celebrate the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist. Those not previously baptized celebrate all three sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist.

The sacrament of baptism relates the images of baptismal bath, baptismal burial, and baptismal birth. First, we are washed clean from everything that prevents perfect union with God, who claims us as an adopted child. Second, we are buried with Christ so we may rise with him on the last day. Third, we are birthed into the Church—the Body of Christ. Because of this rich sacramental symbolism, baptismal fonts are sometimes made in the shape of a cross. Catechumens enter on one side to be baptized and exit on the other side.

We should always remember the importance of the cross in our Christian journey. Without explanation, my parents impressed this on me each time they signed me with the cross. +



Lord, I am grateful that you are my gentle shepherd. Show me how to care for your people with the same love and compassion you show me.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 23–28

Monday, Weekday:
Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5 / Lk 21:1–4


Tuesday, St. Andrew Dũng-Lac and Companion: Rv 14:14–19 / Lk 21:5–11

Wednesday, Weekday:
Rv 15:1–4 / Lk 21:12–19

Thursday, Weekday: Rv 18:1–2, 21–23; 19:1–3, 9a / Lk 21:20–28

Friday, Weekday:
Rv 20:1–4, 11–21:2 / Lk 21:29–33

Saturday, Weekday:
Rv 22:1–7 / Lk 21:34–36

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
November 22, 2020

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